ふじた

ヲタクに恋は難しい 1

一迅社

Wotaku ni Koi ha Muzukashii

ヲタクに恋は難しい

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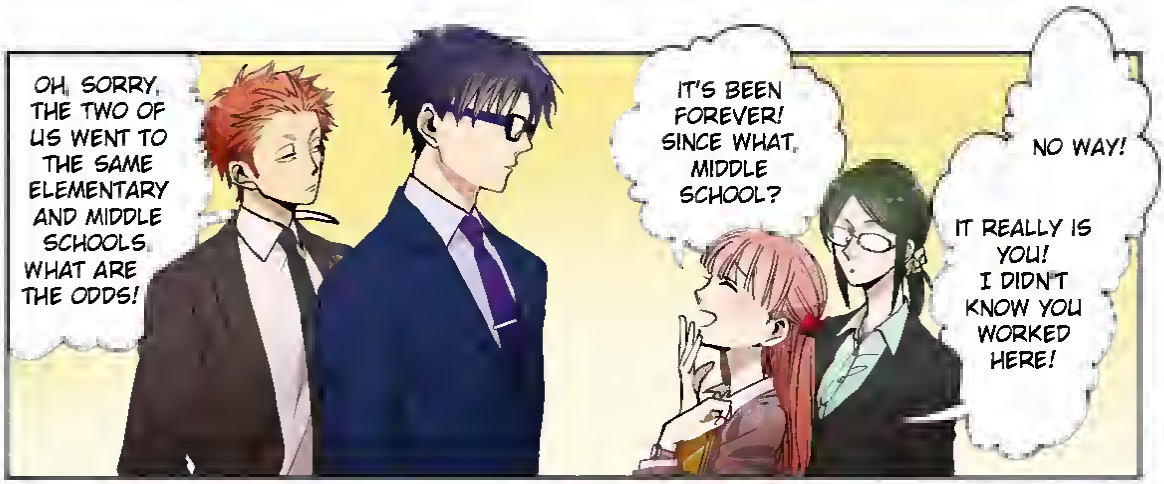
ふじた

一迅社　Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii

WHA...
HIROTAKA?
...
NARUMI?
Friend of yours, Nitouji?
Manager? What's up?
OH SHIT I TALKED TO HIM.


OH, SORRY. THE TWO OF US WENT TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS. WHAT ARE THE ODDS!
IT'S BEEN FOREVER! SINCE WHAT, MIDDLE SCHOOL?
NO WAY!
IT REALLY IS YOU! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORKED HERE!

I WANT TO CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES!
FIRST PRIORITY IS DAMAGE CONTROL.
I NEED TO END THIS CONVERSATION BEFORE HE BLOWS IT.
HEY, HIROTAKA! IF YOU'D LIKE,
CAN WE GRAB DINNER OR SOMETHING LATER?

SEE YOU LATER THEN!
...SURE.
GREAT! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
YES!!

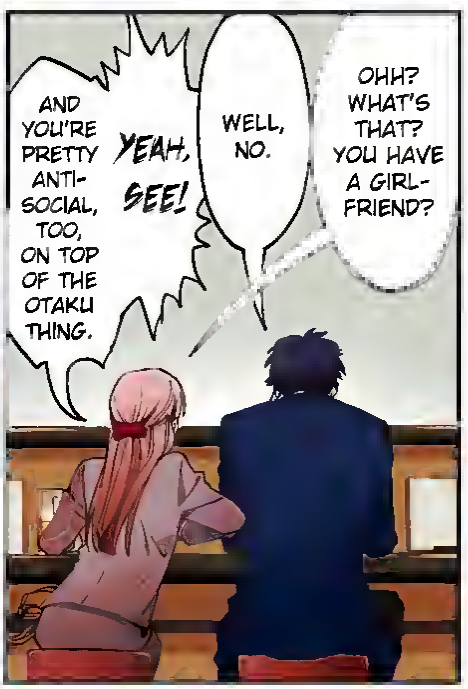
ALRIGHT, THAT SHOULD AT LEAST BUY ME SOME TIME.
Old boyfriend?
Nothing like that
OH, NARUMI.

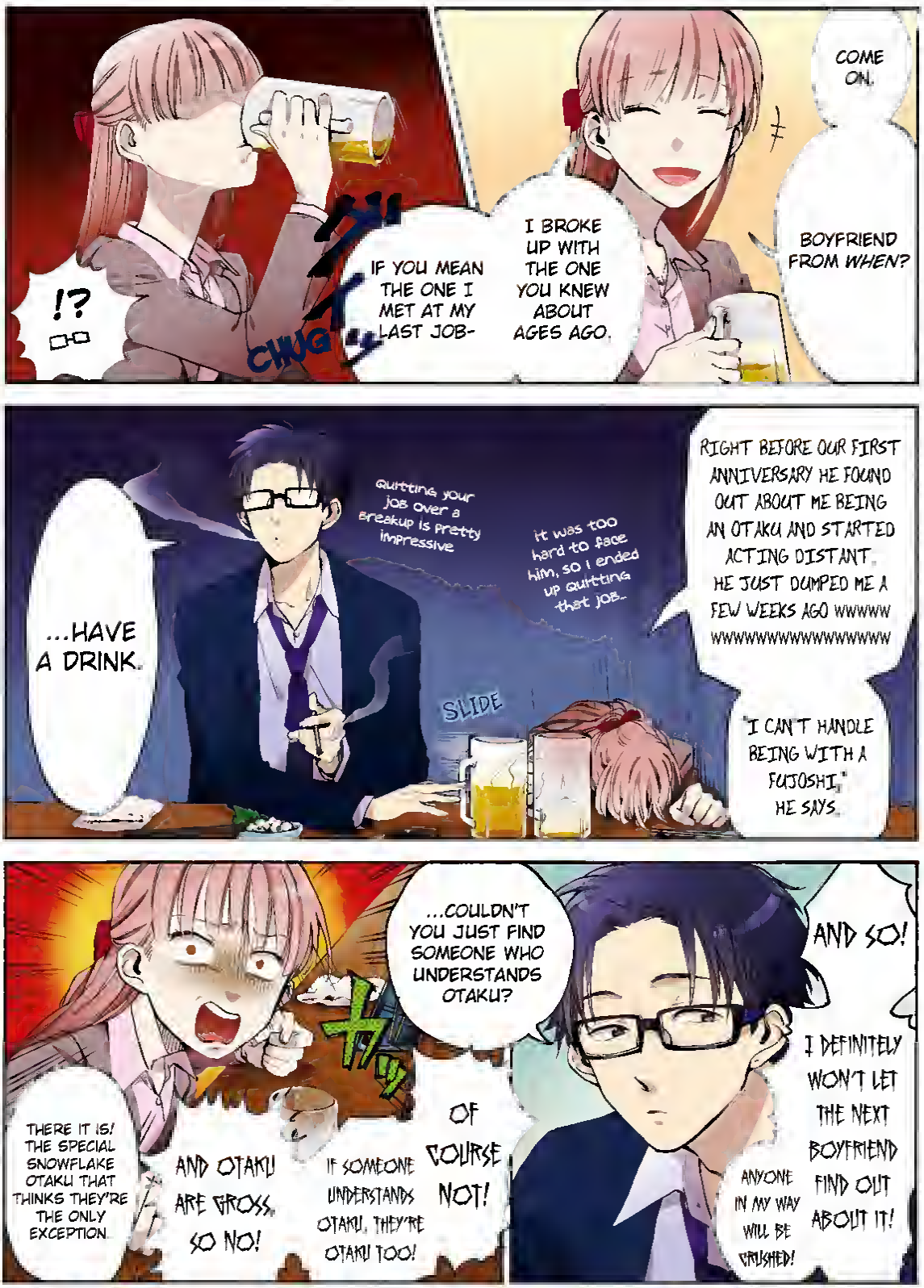
YOU GONNA BE AT THE NEXT COMIKET?

I WAS ABOUT TO MURDER YOU.
thank God those coworkers were good people
Okay, trap laid
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HIDING IT.
sorry
right, meat is down

HOW YOU'RE A SHUT-IN CLASS GAMER OTAKU.
NICE, QUEST COMPLETE.
BY THE WAY, IF YOU TELL ANYBODY I'LL EXPOSE YOU TOO.
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED I'D RUN INTO YOU AT MY NEW JOB.
I'M NOT REALLY HIDING IT THOUGH.
MIND IF I SMOKE?
TOO BAD.
YES.
YOU SHOULD! YOU'LL NEVER BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES THAT WAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M UNPOPULAR.

SO NARUMI,
HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?


OHH? WHAT'S THAT? YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
WELL, NO.
YEAH, SEE!
AND YOU'RE PRETTY ANTI-SOCIAL, TOO, ON TOP OF THE OTAKU THING.


!?
CHUG
IF YOU MEAN THE ONE I MET AT MY LAST JOB-
I BROKE UP WITH THE ONE YOU KNEW ABOUT AGES AGO.
COME ON.
BOYFRIEND FROM WHEN?
...HAVE A DRINK.
Quitting your job over a breakup is pretty impressive
It was too hard to face him, so I ended up quitting that job.
SLIDE
RIGHT BEFORE OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY HE FOUND OUT ABOUT ME BEING AN OTAKU AND STARTED ACTING DISTANT. HE JUST DUMPED ME A FEW WEEKS AGO WWWW WWWWWWWWWWWWWW
"I CAN'T HANDLE BEING WITH A FUJOSHI," HE SAYS.
THERE IT IS! THE SPECIAL SNOWFLAKE OTAKU THAT THINKS THEY'RE THE ONLY EXCEPTION.
AND OTAKU ARE GROSS, SO NO!
IF SOMEONE UNDERSTANDS OTAKU, THEY'RE OTAKU TOO!
OF COURSE NOT!
...COULDN'T YOU JUST FIND SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS OTAKU?
AND SO!
I DEFINITELY WON'T LET THE NEXT BOYFRIEND FIND OUT ABOUT IT!
ANYONE IN MY WAY WILL BE CRUSHED!

2D ROMANCE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
WELL, AS A GROSS VIDEO GAME NERD I'M NO EXCEPTION MYSELF.
...WHAT?

OH WHO CARES, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US!
AND I DON'T INTEND TO DATE YOU.
OKAY.
SLAM!
YEP!
YEAH, THAT'LL GET YOU DUMPED ALRIGHT.
NOT MY TYPE!
OTAKU FRIENDS ARE WORTH WAY MORE!
IT'D BE A WASTE TO MAKE YOU MY BOYFRIEND,
NO WAY! HELL.
HEY HIROTAKA, WHO WAS THE GUY YOU WERE WITH, YOUR SEMPAI?
HE'S ALREADY TAKEN.
MAN, LOVE REALLY AIN'T EASY.
HE HAD KIND OF A TOUGH LOOK, TOO COOL! INTRODUCE ME NEXT TIME.
...YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
OH YEAH,
EXCUSE ME, A WHISKY ON THE ROCKS PLEASE.
...UH-HUH.
THOSE COWORKERS KNEW WHAT COMIKET WAS, I WONDER IF THEY'RE LIKE US?

CREDITS PAGE

CREDIT TO FUJITA, THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST

HTTP://WWW.PIXIV.NET/MEMBER.PHP?ID=3165269

I DECIDED TO MOSTLY LEAVE OTAKU AS OTAKU, BUT MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TRANSLATED IT TO NERD OR SOMETHING INSTEAD.
THEY ACTUALLY USE THE SUPER-NERD SPELLING OF IT, WOTAKU (ヲタク), INTEAD OF THE NORMAL ONE (オタク).

SAME WITH SEMPAI.

"W" IS THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF "LOL".

LOOK, IT'S A MANGA ABOUT OTAKU, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH ***SOME*** UNTRANSLATED BULLSHIT.

Episode.... 1

ARE YOU FREE AFTER WORK? WANT TO GET SOME DRINKS?
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT~ LET'S FINISH UP WORK QUICKLY AND GO~
K, AT SIX THEN. (*`・ω・´)ゝ
...HER AND I BOTH.
WANTS SOME-ONE TO COMPLAIN TO AGAIN? MAN, SHE NEVER GETS SICK OF IT.

LATER, AT SIX P.M.

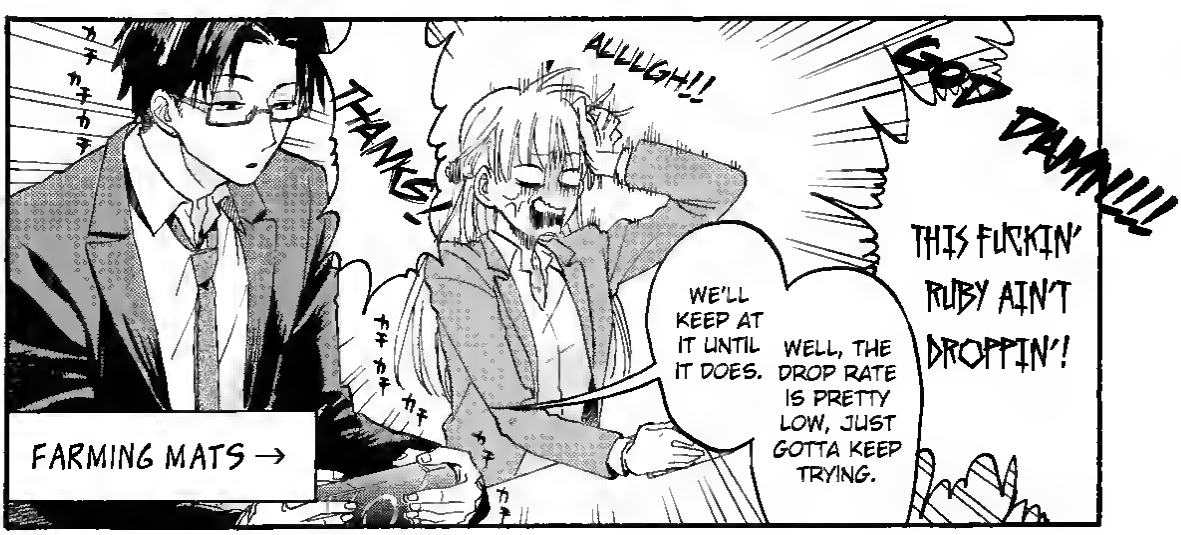
UH, MS. MOMOSE? WHY ARE YOU STILL WORKING? HM?
ER, WELL
WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAD LESS WORK THAN ME, BUT I FINISHED FIRST? HUH?
UH, YOU SEE,
look at that slow typing. and you call yourself an otaku?
It's hard to type with som_one over your shoulder, okay.
click
click
LET ME GUESS. BUSY MINDING YOUR TIME-LINE?
AH
YOU CAN MAKE EXCUSES AND COMPLAIN ALL YOU WANT AT THE BAR. JUST FINISH.
YES, SIR!

SORRY FOR THE WAIT HIROTAKA, WE LEAVE HERE IN ONE MINUTE!
AH.
HANG ON.
ALL RIGHT! FINALLY DONE!
GJ.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
OH COME ON!
HOW LONG IS THAT GONNA TAKE!
I'M HUNGRY!
UH...
YOU DECIDE.
FULL OF YOURSELF, HUH? ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S SEE YOU WIN IN FIVE MINUTES!
PIECE OF CAKE.
EWW, NERD.
I FORGOT HE ALWAYS GETS SUCKED IN WHEN HE STARTS A MISSION...
SAYS THE FU-JOSHI.

I'll just have a cassis orange?
I like, get drunk really easily? So like,
I'LL START WITH A BEER.
WELCOME!
SEAT AT THE BAR OKAY?
'KAY.
AND MR. BOY-FRIEND,
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
AH, NO, I'M,
NOT HER BOY-FRIEND OR-
IF ANY-THING, WE'RE MORE LIKE FRENE-MIES-
ALRIGHT, GET ME THE STRONGEST DRINK YOU HAVE.
AND SOME TAKO-WASA.
?
?

LIKE, THAT GUY I JUST BROKE UP WITH APPARENTLY HAS A NEW GIRL ALREADY.
HAHAHA...
BESIDES, ALL THE GUYS I FALL FOR END UP BEING TRASH.
I GUESS WE SEE EACH OTHER MORE AS OTAKU FRIENDS THAN MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.
HA, HIROTAKA AS A BF.
...WHY DO I ALWAYS PICK THE WRONG ONES?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO GOOD AT OTOME GAMES.
RIGHT, THAT'S WHY.

...AND?
WAS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
IF YOU'RE DONE, I'MMA HEAD HOME...
WAIT!
THAT'S NOT WHY I ASKED YOU OUT!
CLING
PLEASE...
SQUEEZE
SAVE ME, HIROTAKA!


GOD DAMN!!!
THIS FUCKIN' RUBY AIN'T DROPPIN'!
AUUGH!!
THANKS!
WELL, THE DROP RATE IS PRETTY LOW, JUST GOTTA KEEP TRYING.
WE'LL KEEP AT IT UNTIL IT DOES.
カチカチカチ
FARMING MATS →

SORRY ABOUT THAT MR. HIROTAKA, IT GOT PRETTY LATE.
NO PROBLEM, MS. NARUMI.
THAT REALLY HELPED ME OUT THOUGH, NOW I CAN FINALLY BEAT THAT THING...
YOU'RE THE BEST HIROTAKA!
THEN, WHY NOT PICK ME?
WHY WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU STUPID?
!?

IF IT WERE ME...
WHAT DOES "WASHBOARD" HAVE TO DO WITH THIS!?
I MEAN YOU, STUPID. WASHBOARD.
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'STUPID'!
neener neener
what are you five?
AND I WOULDN'T DISAPPOINT YOU OR MAKE YOU CRY,
OR EVER LET YOU SAY YOU "PICKED WRONG".
I COULD ALWAYS HELP WITH FARMING MATS OR GRINDING EXP,
OR WAIT FOR YOU WHEN YOU HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME,
BOOM
PLUS, I'LL HELP SELL AT YOUR BOOTH FOR THE EVENT NEXT WEEKEN-
YOU'RE HIRED.
BOOM
AND SO BEGAN THE ROMANCE BETWEEN THE TWO OTAKU.

Momose Narumi
桃瀬成海

Birthday: May 3rd
Age: 26
Height: 154 cm
Blood Type: A
Sign: Taurus

Generally likes manga, games, and cosplay, of whatever genres are hot at the moment. A 2D polygamist, with several waifus and husbandos at any given time.

Alcohol: Actually pretty strong

Tobacco: Doesn't smoke, but thinks it looks cool

A terrible OL who can hardly even make tea, also a fujoshi.

Has a wide range of interests, including cosplay, BL, otome games, and 3D idols, and has no self-restraint when it comes to them.

Does her best to feign being a normie at work. Unscrupulous.

Lived her whole life hiding her otaku-ness from even her family and close friends, and so fears being found out more than anything else.

Falls in love easily, but has zero luck with men. Still a hopeless romantic despite herself. Fairly experienced in love, but still bad at recognizing when people are interested in her.

Has known Hirotaka since she was a child (before becoming an otaku), and sees him as the only person she can be her otaku self with - and so, in some ways, as more important than a boyfriend.

Nifuji Hirotaka
二藤宏嵩

Birthday: March 20th
Age: 26
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 70 kg (sometimes less)
Blood Type: B
Sign: Pisces

Specializes in games, also into some manga and anime.
Good at anything you can call a "game", but especially likes FPSs, fighters, action games, and other things that don't require you to spend time leveling.
Only one waifu per genre.
Prefers stats to looks.

Alcohol: Never even gotten drunk.

Tobacco: All the time.

Relatively handsome and a good worker; a high spec glasses guy on the surface, but really a hopeless video game otaku. Would die without games.

Generally not interested in other people. Not that he dislikes them, but would rather just go home and play games.

Doesn't show much emotion on his face. He's not doing it intentionally, that's just his nature.

Has spent more time playing games than talking to people, and as such has almost no friends.

Doesn't care about hiding his otaku-ness, but also doesn't go out of his way to tell people about it either.

Likes gaming, smoking, and drinking (though since he doesn't get drunk, usually doesn't bother drinking that much).

Prefers big boobs. Believes all men should.

Is far more talkative and upbeat in texts than in person.

Credits!

Credit to: Fujita, the author and artist

http://www.pixiv.net/member.php?id=3165269

Notes:

Lol @ "quick" being 6pm. That's Japan for you.

"Timeline" refers to twitter; Hirotaka was calling her out on spending too much time on twitter and not enough time actually working.

The カチ sound effect that I haven't been translating is the sound of buttons being pressed on a game controller/handheld/etc.

"We leave here in one minute!" is a Laputa reference.
(Btw, in the Japanese version of the movie,
it's 40 seconds, not one minute.)

A cassis orange is a very common, sweet, lowish-alcohol content drink that is ubiquitous in Japan. Considered kind of girly, but not unpopular with men either (though maybe not old men).

Narumi's laughs on page 12 sound like this:
ZUUUUUUUUUUUwwwwwww
FUHIHIHHIwwwwwwwwwww
FAAAAAAAAAAAAwwwwwwww
DUFELPORUSKOKOwwwwwwww
Yes.
(Substitute the "w"s for either "lol"s or "ha"s as you prefer.)

Narumi actually says that "God Damn" in English.

Takowasa is raw octopus plus wasabi. Popular drinking snack. Apparently was created as a punishment in the 90s, but people actually thought it was good, so it started being sold in restaurants.

When they call each other Mr./Ms. near the end, they are actually using "don", an abbreviated (and nerdy) version of "dono", which itself is kind of nerdy to use in a normal conversation.

"OL", short for "office lady", is a position in many Japanese companies. They typically do menial or miscellaneous tasks like data entry, making coffee, serving tea to visitors, etc. Pretty low on the office totem pole. Not to be mistaken with normal employees who happen to be women; all OLs are women, but not all female employees are OLs. ~Japan~

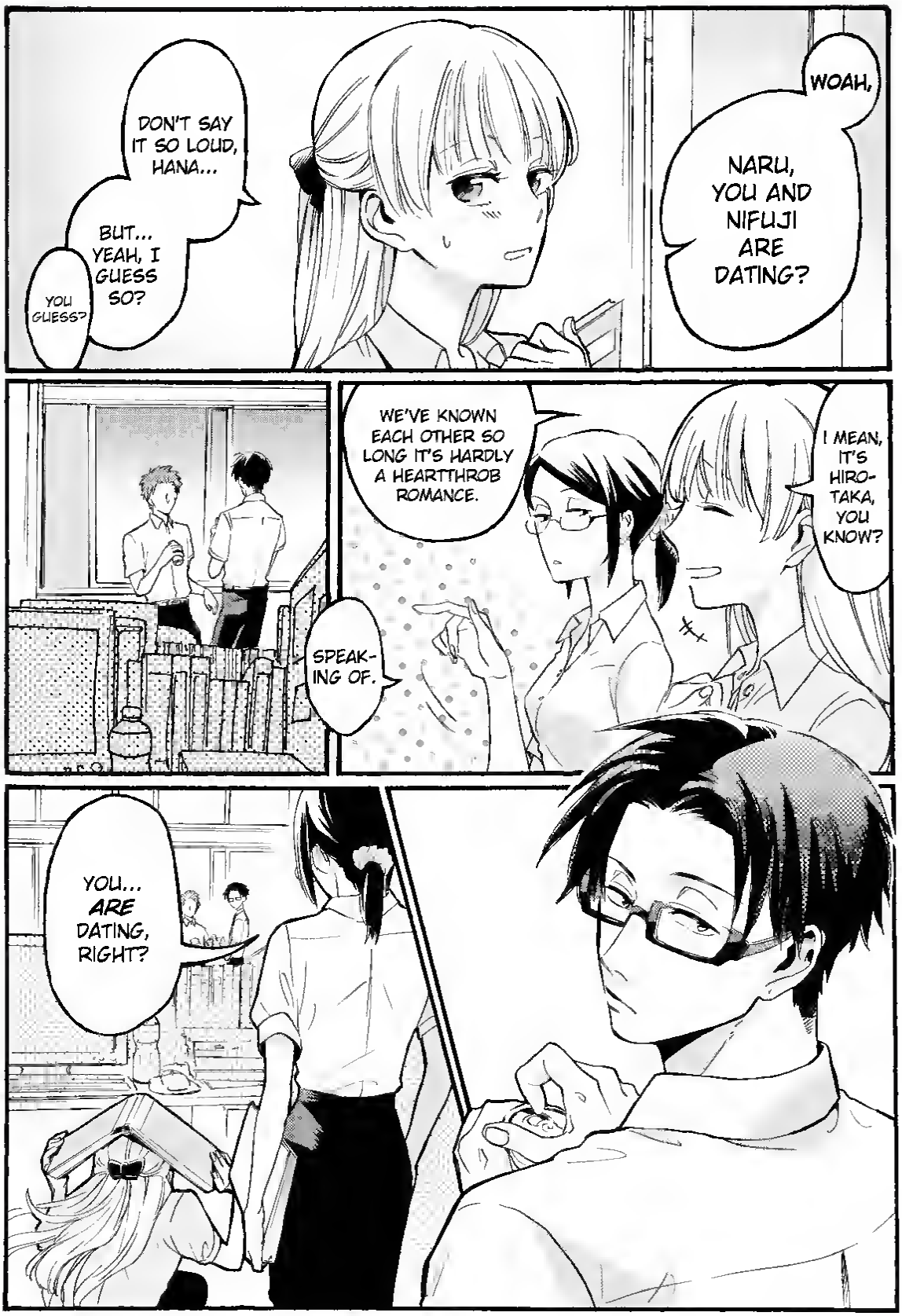
154 cm is barely over 5 feet.
184 cm is barely over 6 feet.
70 kg is 154 lbs.

Apparently, Pisceses and Tauruses are supposed to have good romantic compatibility.

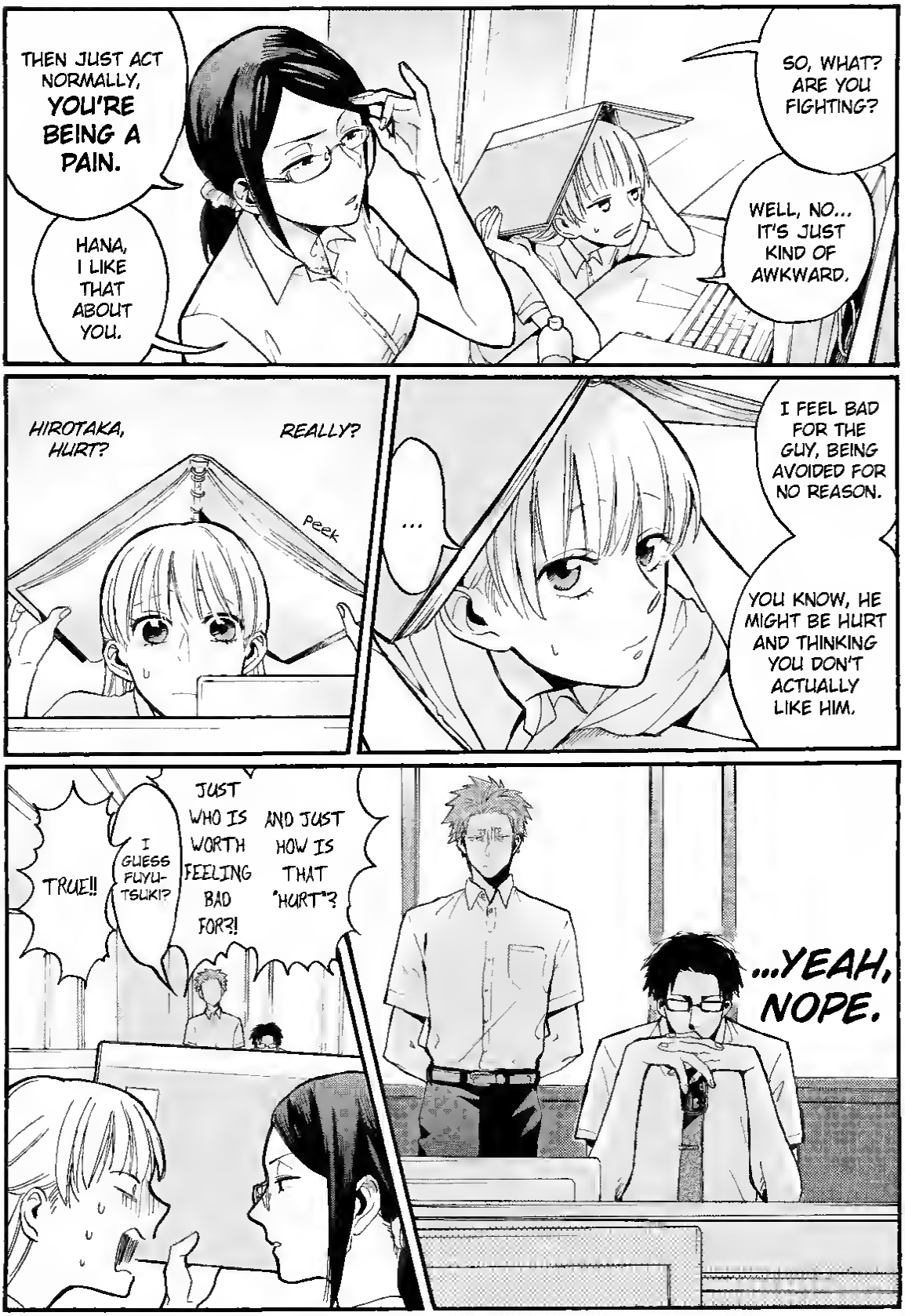
When they say Hirotaka has "never even gotten drunk", they mean he can drink like a fish and hardly feel it.

Yes, they are playing Monster Hunter, in case anyone didn't catch that.

Episode....2


WOAH,
NARU, YOU AND NIFUJI ARE DATING?
DON'T SAY IT SO LOUD, HANA...
BUT... YEAH, I GUESS SO?
YOU GUESS?
I MEAN, IT'S HIRO-TAKA, YOU KNOW?
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SO LONG IT'S HARDLY A HEARTTHROB ROMANCE.
SPEAK-ING OF.
YOU... ARE DATING, RIGHT?

WOAH,
NIFUJI, YOU AND MOMOSE ARE GOING OUT?
YEAH,
I GUESS SO.
YOU GUESS?
tink tink tink tink tink
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
WELL, LATELY SHE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME LIKE SOME LEGENDARY POKEMON.
WHAT'D YOU DO?
NO-THING YET.
WELL,
tink tink tink tink tink tink tink
DUDE NOBODY IS GOING TO GET THAT.
Psh
KABA-KURA,
WAS THERE A "TOO-SPECIFIC-TO-UNDERTAND IMPRESSIONS CHAMPIONSHIP" HOLE OVER THERE?


SO, WHAT? ARE YOU FIGHTING?
WELL, NO... IT'S JUST KIND OF AWKWARD.
THEN JUST ACT NORMALLY, YOU'RE BEING A PAIN.
HANA, I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
I FEEL BAD FOR THE GUY, BEING AVOIDED FOR NO REASON.
...
YOU KNOW, HE MIGHT BE HURT AND THINKING YOU DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE HIM.
HIROTAKA, HURT?
REALLY?
Peek
...YEAH, NOPE.
AND JUST HOW IS THAT "HURT"?
JUST WHO IS WORTH FEELING BAD FOR?!
I GUESS FUYU-TSUKI?
TRUE!!

SO, YOU FIGHTING OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T THINK SO.
OKAY, SO THEN WHY IS SHE AVOIDING YOU?
IUNNO.
DATING SIMS ARE OUTSIDE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.
STOP COMPARING EVERYTHING TO GAMES.
MOMOSE, HUH... IF AN INCOMPETENT RUNT LIKE HER, WHOSE ONLY SAVING GRACE IS HER CUTE SMILE, IS ACTING LIKE THAT...
I GUESS A SEVERE VIDEO GAME ADDICT LIKE YOU WAS TOO MUCH FOR A NORMAL PERSON LIKE HER.
sorry, I misprinted 200 copies~
drinking party? I'll go if it's free♡
MAY-BE.
LOL NARUMI'S DISGUISE IS AS PERFECT AS ALWAYSwww
LMAOwww
NIFUJI.
GO TALK TO HER AND GET THIS SORTED OUT BEFORE IT STARTS INTERFERING WITH CHERI WORK!
I SEE...
SO, SET UP AN EVENT SCENE TO RAISE HER AFFECTION LEVEL?
A CLASSIC DATING SIM PLAY.
STOP COMPARING EVERYTHING TO GAMES!!
WHO CARES ABOUT DATING SIMS!?

I'M FUCKING JEALOUS.
WELL, TO BE HONEST.
HE'S GOOD AT HIS JOB, AND DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO CHEAT,
HE DOESN'T MIND OUR OTAKU HOBBIES, HELL, HE IS AN OTAKU
HE'S GOT A NICE BODY SO HE'D LOOK GOOD IN COSPLAY,
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE'S HOT!!
JUST WHAT COMPLAINTS COULD YOU HAVE ABOUT THAT FINE PIECE OF REAL ESTATE?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M COMPLAIN-ING...
CLACK
I THINK KABAKURA IS HOTTER, PERSONALLY!
THOUGH TO BE FRANK,

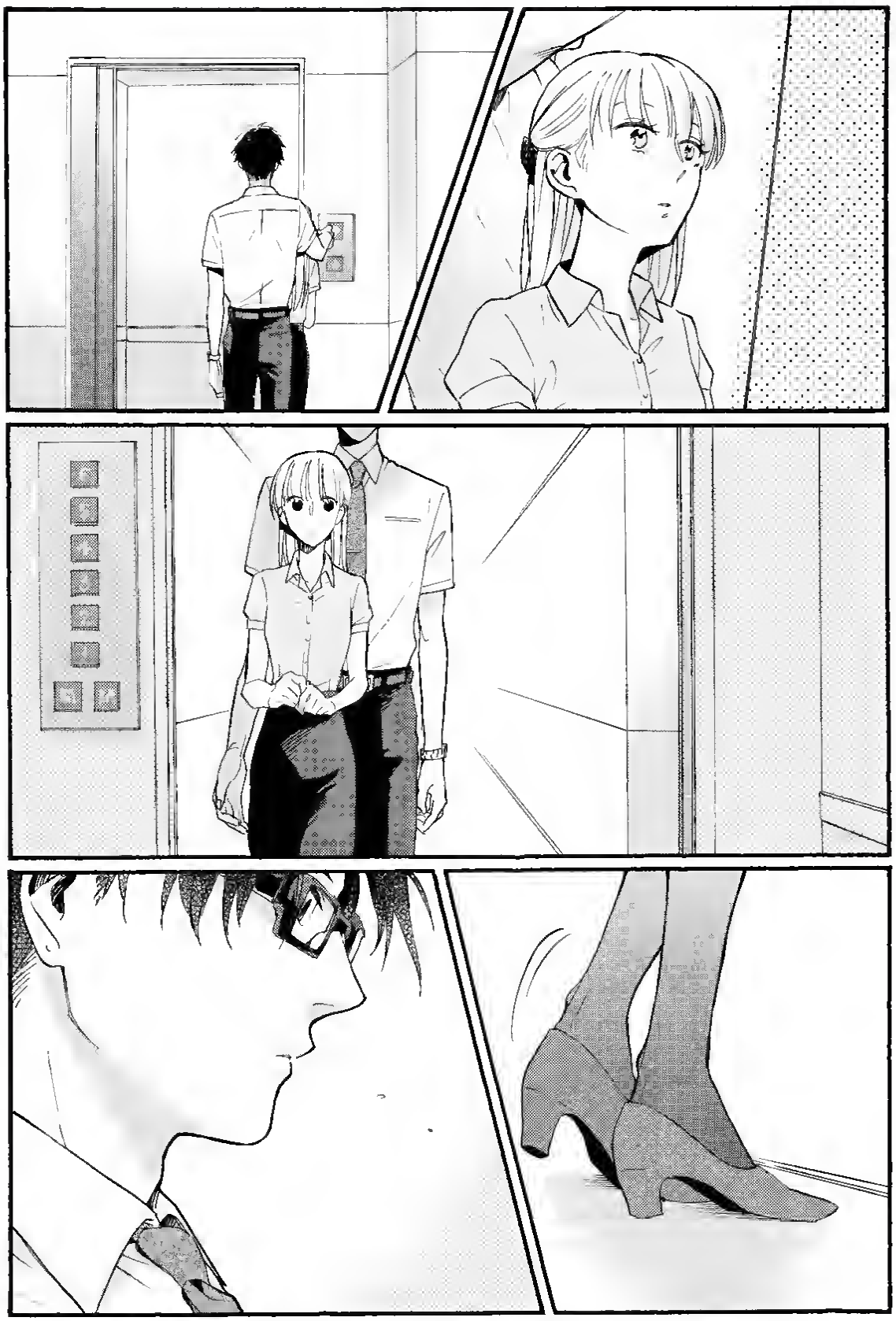
An Enraged Hirotaka has appeared!_
glance
What will
Fight
Party
⇒ Run
clatter
What will you do?
⇒ Fight
Party
Run
Money
click
NUDGE
Couldn't run!
Fight
Party
⇒Run

I'LL GIVE HER A TALKING TO, SO COULD YOU WAIT A BIT FOR ME?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT LOOK, SHE'S TERRIFIED.
MY SAVIOR!
OKAY, CALM DOWN NIFUJI.
APPEAR
Fight
⇒ Party
Run
Money
Otaku Friend Koyanagi's skill activates!
Koyanagi uses "Persuade"!
HANG ON, KOYANAGI.
THIS IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN NIFUJI AND MOMOSE,
DON'T BUTT IN.
APPEAR
Kabakura uses "Manly Spirit"!
Koyanagi's "Persuade" fails!
I will when you do!
WANNA TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN, WOMAN?
VS
SNAP
SNAP
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM YOU, BAKAKURA.
Scram
Warning! A new enemy approaches!

=LET ME EXPLAIN!=
KABAKURA TAROU (28) AND KOYANAGI HANAKO (27) WERE CAPTAINS OF THE THE BOYS AND GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS AT THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
AFTER SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN HEATED FIGHTS OVER LIMITED GYM SPACE, THEY STILL BREAK INTO FIGHTS AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION EVEN TODAY!
(THEY ARE THAT EXCEEDINGLY RARE TYPE OF OTAKU THAT IS ACTUALLY GOOD AT SPORTS)
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! ALWAYS STICKING YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!
YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE. MAYBE TRY CONSIDERING OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ONCE IN AWHILE!
YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS, BUTTING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS! COULD YOU BE ANY MORE STEREOTYPICAL!?
MASH
うおおおo
MASH
MASH...
MASH...
TAP
Couldn't run!

...SORRY.
AH
UH
PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE...
...WHEN WE WERE "FRIENDS",
IT WAS A LOT EASIER, HUH?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU,
I JUST COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW I SHOULD TALK TO YOU.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU I LIKED YOU.
I GUESS...

...UH, YOU NEVER DID, ACTUALLY.
HM?
HM?
OH. YEAH, I GUESS NOT.
If you don't remember, reread chapter one!



C'MON,
DON'T SAY THAT.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SORT OF... UNFINISHED,
BUT YOU WORKED UP A LOT OF COURAGE TO SAY IT, RIGHT?
thump
thump
thump
AND IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.
FROM NOW ON I'LL...T-TRY NOT TO RUN AWAY EVEN IF I GET EMBARRASSED, SO...
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE,
"I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU."
HUH!?
HIRO-TAKA!?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
DONGHAE♪
WHAT!?
WHY "TOO-SPECIFIC-TO-UNDERTAND IMPRESSIONS CHAMPIONSHIP"?
SERIOUSLY, WHAT!?
>Continue?_

CREDITS PAGE

CREDIT GOES TO FUJITA, THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST.
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(IT'S ME, I'M THE TRANSLATOR THAT PUTS "DUDE" IN A MANGA.)

NOTES:

"TOO-SPECIFIC-TO-UNDERSTAND IMPRESSIONS CHAMPIONSHIP" (細かすぎて伝わらないモノマネ選手権) IS A JAPANESE TV SHOW WHERE PEOPLE DO IMPRESSIONS OF WEIRDLY SPECIFIC SITUATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, "A KOREAN MILITARY RECRUIT WHO GETS THROUGH GRUELING TRAINING ON WILLPOWER ALONE".

I USE THAT SPECIFIC EXAMPLE BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE "DONGHAE♪" LINE COMES FROM; AS PART OF THE SKETCH HE SINGS PART OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL ANTHEM, WHICH INCLUDES THE WORD "DONGHAE". APPARENTLY.

YOU CAN SEE A CLIP OF THE SHOW (AND THE ABOVE SKETCH; IT'S THE FIRST ONE IN THE VIDEO) HERE:

HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=NEU2OU5HRGY

NOTICE THAT AFTER THE SKETCH ENDS THEY FALL INTO A HOLE IN THE STAGE; THAT'S WHAT HIROTAKA IS REFERRING TO THE FIRST BIT.

HIROTAKA AND KABAKURA ARE DOING THIS THING FROM EVA:

THE GUY ON THE LEFT IS FUYUTSUKI, AND I GUESS HE IS A PRETTY PITIABLE CHARACTER.

>Omake_
WHAT!? I'M NOT "INTO" ANYTHING!
AND NOW WHAT ARE YOU MAD FOR!? DAMMIT KOYANAGI, DON'T JUST WALK AWAY...
REAL MATURE, GETTING ALL INTO IT JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE CALLED YOU HOT!
DON'T FOLLOW ME!
...HANAKO!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT AT WORK!!
=LET ME EXPLAIN!=
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HM?
.....
...WAT.

YOU LIE!!!
THAT FACEwwww
BUT NO, REALLY.
NO, I WASN'T MAD?
WHAT?
NORMALLY YOU START WORRYING THAT MAYBE THEY HATE YOU, NO?
I MEAN, WHEN SOMEONE TREATS YOU LIKE THAT,
WELL, I WASN'T MAD, BUT...
WOAH WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE, CUT THAT OUTwwww
WATw
DOES THE ONE BY WEST EXIT WORK?
ALRIGHT LET'S HIT THE ARCADE! 'KAY?
JEEEEZ...

Kabakura Tarou
樺倉太郎

Birthday:	November 9th
Age:	28
Height:	180 cm
Weight:	72 kg
Blood Type:	O
Sign:	Scorpio

Reads the major manga, plays some games, and has some merch for his favorite stuff; higher power level than a normie, but not a full-fledged otaku.
Feels bad for his old waifus whenever he finds a new one, so is the type who keeps them in his Waifu Hall of Fame.

Alcohol:	Gets sleepy if he drinks too much.
Tobacco:	Quit after hearing about the tax increase.

Hirotaka and company's sempai at work. Has a scary face, but is actually a serious, caring, and reliable superior...with a scary face.

Likes generic superhero and cute girl stuff; a "mainstream" otaku, relatively speaking.

While not to same extent as Narumi, he is embarrassed about the hobby and hides it from his friends. However, after spending time with Hirotaka and Narumi he has come to think "well hey, I'm not really nerdy at all".
He is.

Watches over Hirotaka and Narumi's relationship almost like a parent. A little worried about them.

Somehow found himself dating Koyanagi, despite them being at each other's throats since high school.

Koyanagi Hanako
小和花子

Birthday:	August 28th
Age:	27
Height:	167 cm
Blood Type:	AB
Sign:	Virgo

Likes theater, plays, and similar 3D stuff. Enjoys some manga and anime as well. Likes BL. Goes all in on waifus/husbandos once she falls for them, but for some reason always falls for side characters.

Alcohol:	Loves it, but super light weight. Don't let her near it.
Tobacco:	Once in a blue moon.

Narumi's sempai and friend. Has a "cool" - if plain - face, but a nice body.

Sort of popular in the 'splay world as a male-character-only cosplayer.

Comes off as a little detached, but likes trying to help out and is actually pretty nosy. Says some harsh things, but not to be mean.

After learning about Narumi being an otaku she came out herself, and as a result they call each other by the nicknames "Naru" and "Hana".

Half thinks Narumi and Hirotaka's relationship is cute, half is jealous.

Somehow found herself dating Kabakura, who she has had a cat-and-dog relationship with since high school.

Despite usually being combative with Kabakura, acts spoiled when they are alone.

Can be a pain.

HOW'S THIS!?
THEY LOOK SMART NOW, RIGHT?
Not actually dumb->
<-Not actually smart

¿?
CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE ->
¿?
CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE ->
Wotaku ni iyi ha Hugumeshi!
KUNTIAHE

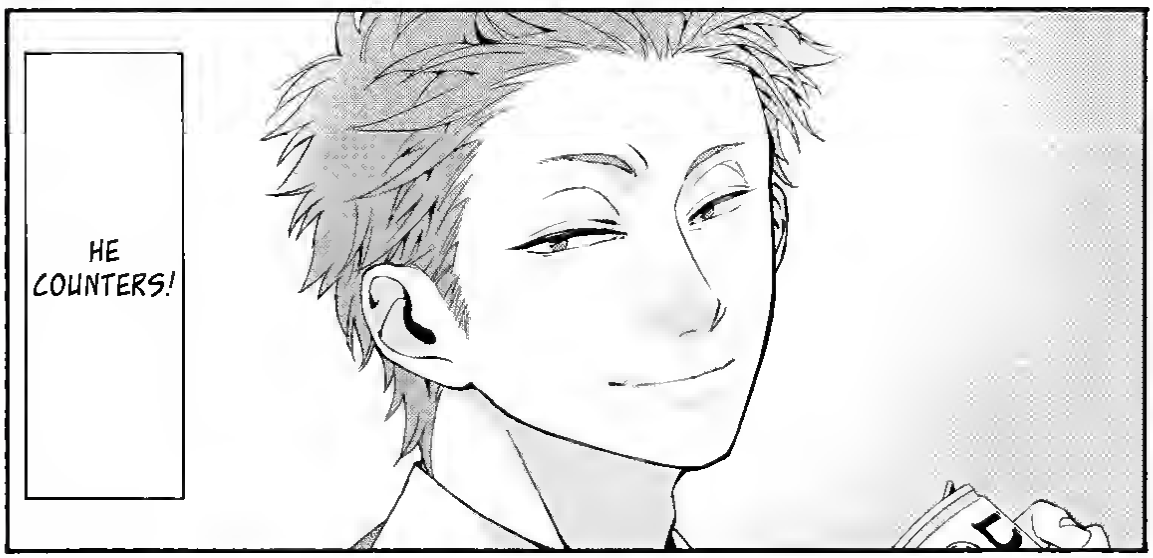
THE HEROINE IS THE BEST.
END OF DISCUSSION.
Team Ayanami
VERY WELL.
THEN KRIEG IS WHAT YOU SHALL HAVE.
Team Asuka
WOMEN ARE WEIRD, MAN.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR WAIFU?
Team Mari
WHY DO THEY FEEL THE NEED TO FORCE THEIR FAVORITES ON OTHERS?
Team Unit 01
I THINK IT'S LESS "WOMEN ARE WEIRD," AND MORE THAT THOSE TWO ARE JUST ON TEAM WAR HAWK.

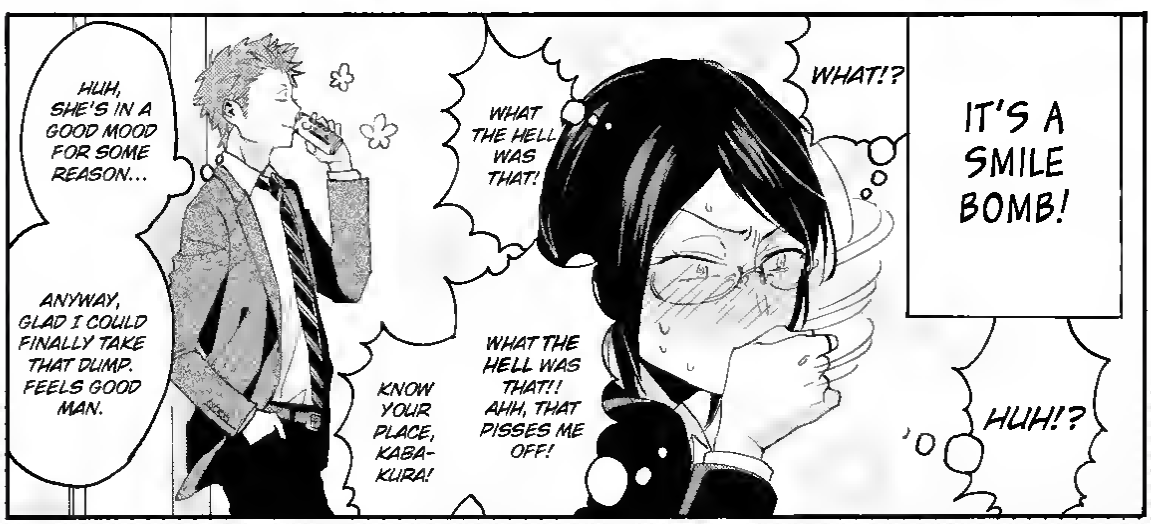
WHAT CAN YOU NOT STAND?
CROSS-DRESSING IS OKAY!
...I'LL NEVER READ NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LIKE THE ART!
REVERSI, BACKWARDS PAIRING, DEATHS, GORE, NTR, GENDER-SWAP, AND CROSS-OVERS...
...BL... ...IS KINDA...
I'M NOT ONE TO STICK MY NOSE INTO ANYONE ELSE'S BUSINESS LIKE THAT. BUT...
DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS, YOU KNOW?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T MUCH LIKE MULTIPLAYER IN GENERAL.
NOOBS AND BAD PLAYERS.
...PROBABLY PEOPLE WHO CONSTANTLY TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY DON'T LIKE.
IF I HAD TO SAY...
adjust

HERE WATCH, BOOM!
OH COME ON, IT'S NOT THAT HARD.
A NICE, RELIABLE KIND OF CUTE.
WELL THAT WAS CUTE.
THANK YOU FOR THAT RANDOM BIT OF USELESS INFORMATION.
I CAN'T ACTUALLY WINK.
YOU KNOW,
WE CALL THAT BLINKING
I CAN DO A DOUBLE WINK THOUGH.
that is adorable

HRNG
WHA-!?
I'M SO SORRY! WE SHOULDN'T HAVE FORCED YOU!
OH GOD!
Good luck dude
I'm sure you can do it if you try!
Rah! Rah! Hi-ro-ta-ka! You can do it, yay!
...
...

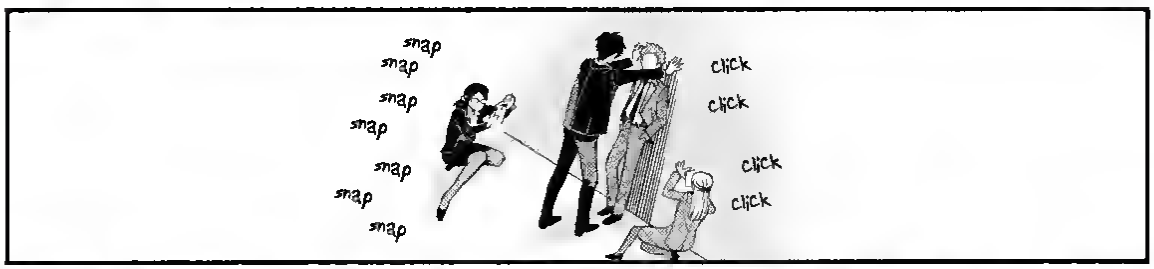
DIE!
KER-WINK
FOOL! FACE THE MIGHT OF MY SUDDEN DERE ATTACK, AND FLOUNDER AWKWARDLY!
HALF-JOKINGLY,
SHE TOSSES HIM A WINK.

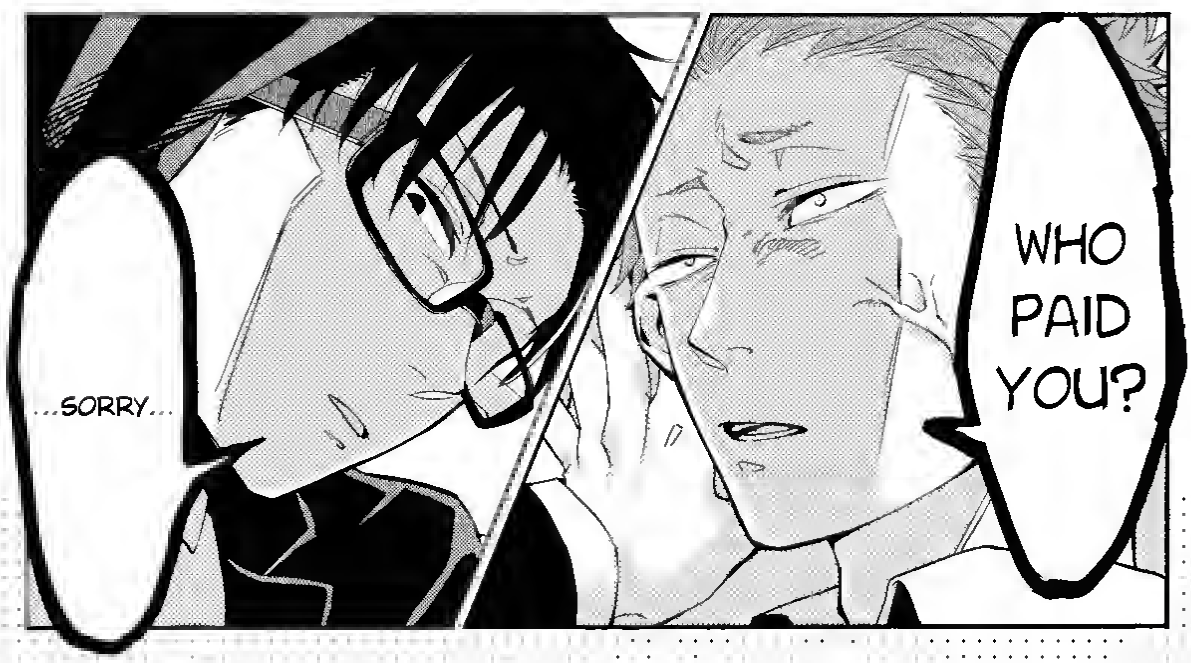

HE COUNTERS!

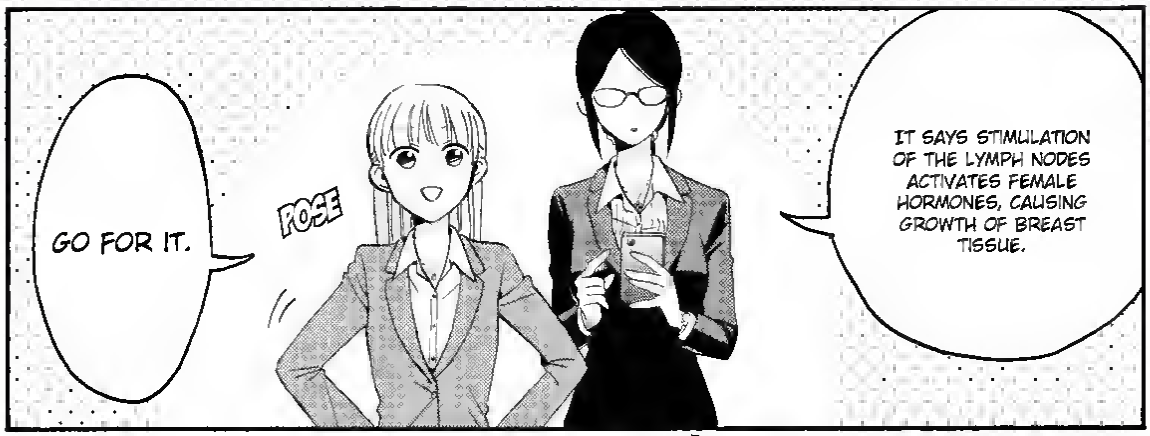

HUH, SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD FOR SOME REASON...
ANYWAY, GLAD I COULD FINALLY TAKE THAT DUMP. FEELS GOOD MAN.
KNOW YOUR PLACE, KABA-KURA!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!! AHH, THAT PISSES ME OFF!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!
WHAT!?
IT'S A SMILE BOMB!
HUH!?

壁
KABE
ドン！
DON!

TL: wall slam


snap
snap
snap
snap
snap
snap
snap
click
click
click
click


...SORRY...
WHO PAID YOU?


GO FOR IT.
POSE
IT SAYS STIMULATION OF THE LYMPH NODES ACTIVATES FEMALE HORMONES, CAUSING GROWTH OF BREAST TISSUE.

NOW! IN THIS VERY MOMENT! MY BREASTS ARE GROWING, LEADING TO EVEN GREATER FAN SERVICE FOR THE MALE READERS! HOW LOGICAL! HOW EFFICIENT!
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
Pant
Mmmmm
Pant
カリ
NAR-OOBS TOO CUTE!!
AHHH!! NARU YOU'RE SO CUTE!!
AHHHN!! NARU'S LITTLE BOOBS!! SO TINY AND CUTE!!

twist
twist
twist
twist

HANA'S SO COOL~
I REALLY ADMIRE HER~
MAYBE TRY FOLLOWING HER EXAMPLE, NARUMI.
SHE'S SO GOOD AT HER JOB, UNLIKE ME~
YES, I'LL BE SENDING OVER A FAX ON THAT MATTER SHORTLY.
YES, GOODBYE.
YES, YES. UNDERSTOOD.
...
I'M KIND OF BUSY HERE.
...WHAT?
HEY.

YOU OKAY?
...MY STOMACH HAS BEEN KILLING ME SINCE BEFORE LUNCH...
AND OF COURSE IT'S THE ONE DAY I DIDN'T BRING ANY MEDICINE...
I knew it
uuhhhg
ALRIGHT, I'LL GO DELIVER THOSE DOCUMENTS AND PICK UP SOME MEDICINE. YOU GO SIT DOWN.
AND QUIT HOLDING THIS STUFF IN UNTIL YOU'RE ALREADY AT YOUR LIMIT, OKAY?

CREDIIIIIIIIIITS!

AUTHOR & ARTIST: FUJITA

NOOOOOOOOOOTES!

KRIEG IS GERMAN FOR 'WAR.' HANAKO IS QUOTING THE MAJOR FROM HELLSING.

"REVERSI" IS A BL/YAOI TERM (THOUGH IT SOMETIMES IS APPLIED TO OTHER GENRES) FOR A COUPLE WHERE THE ROLES OF 'SEME' AND 'UKE' ARE INTERCHANGABLE (OR 'REVERSIBLE')

A "BACKWARDS PAIRING" (逆CP, GYAKU CP) IS ANOTHER BL/YAOI TERM, FOR WHEN YOU DO THE PAIRING "BACKWARDS," E.G., AxB BECOMES BxA. YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH FUJOSHI FROM OTHER SERIES WHO FLIP OUT ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING.

TO BE CLEAR, REVERSI IS WHEN THE COUPLE DOESN'T HAVE STRICT RULES FOR WHO IS SEME AND WHO IS UKE, WHILE A BACKWARDS PAIRING DOES HAVE ESTABLISHED SEME/UKE ROLES, BUT SOMEONE REVERSES THEM (LIKE A DOUJIN ARTIST).

ORZ

"DEATHS" MAY BE OBVIOUS, BUT SHE'S SPECIFICALLY TALKING ABOUT KILLING CHARACTERS OFF MID SERIES OR IN DOUJIN WORKS.

THE REST YOU CAN GOOGLE.
(WHO ARE WE KIDDING, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ALL MEAN)

'KABEDON' IS A JAPANESE MEME (THAT SEEMS TO HAVE SOMEWHAT INVADED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERNET) IT'S WHERE, WELL, SOMEONE DOES THIS:

IT'S A COMMON SCENE IN SHOJO MANGA, WHERE A MALE CHARACTER (PROBABLY A LOVE INTEREST) CORNERS THE HEROINE. THE CONCEPT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THIS NAME FOR IT SUPPOSEDLY COMES FROM WHEN VOICE ACTRESS RYOUKO SHINTANI TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT OVER THE RADIO.

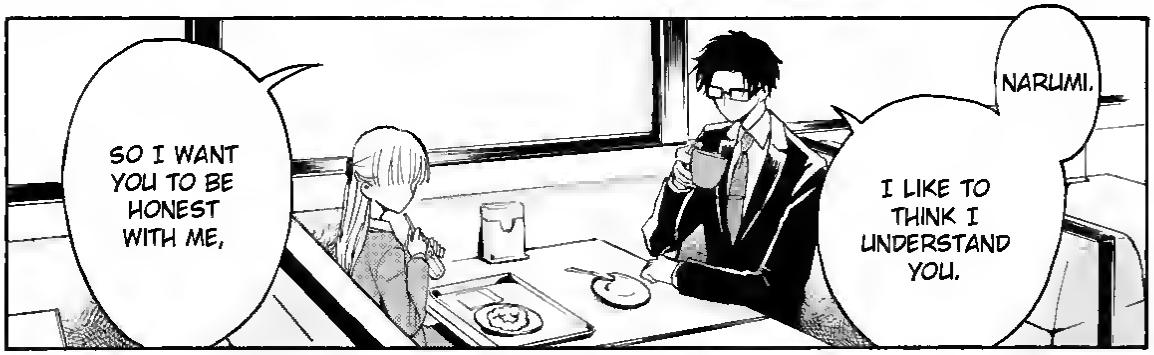
KABEDON IS ALSO USED TO REFER TO WHEN YOU'RE BEING LOUD AND THE PERSON IN THE NEIGHBORING APARTMENT (OR WHOEVER) BANGS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL TO TELL YOU TO SHUT UP.

DID SOMEONE SAY ***FAXES!??!?!***

HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/JAPANFAX

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

UH...
SO NEXT WEEKEND, I, UH...
HAVE SOME PLANS...
click
click
click
click
click
click
AND THE WEEK AFTER THAT...
ACTUALLY, I MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH TIME AT ALL FOR AWHILE...
...


NARUMI.
I LIKE TO THINK I UNDERSTAND YOU.
SO I WANT YOU TO BE HONEST WITH ME,

HOW'S YOUR PROGRESS COMING?
THE DRAFT ISN'T...
TWO WEEKS UNTIL COMIKET!

SORRY.
HUH?
ASKING A GUY TO HELP ON THIS,
I'M A HORRIBLE WOMAN, AREN'T I...
IT'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE OVER.
I DON'T REALLY MIND, AND BESIDES...
NARUMI, YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE MOST PAIN RIGHT NOW...
ANYWAY, I'M SENDING OVER THE ONES I FINISHED THE TONES FOR.
DOUBLE CHECK THAT PLZ
OH, AND ON PAGE 12, PANEL 2, I NOTICED YOU LEFT OFF THE MARKER, SO I ADDED IT.
Narumi
TAKA-HIRO! YOU BEAUTIFUL BASTARD, YOU!
WHY ARE YOU SO GOOD!?
WILL NARUMI-SENSEI'S (SLIGHTLY ECCHI) NEW BOOK BE READY!?

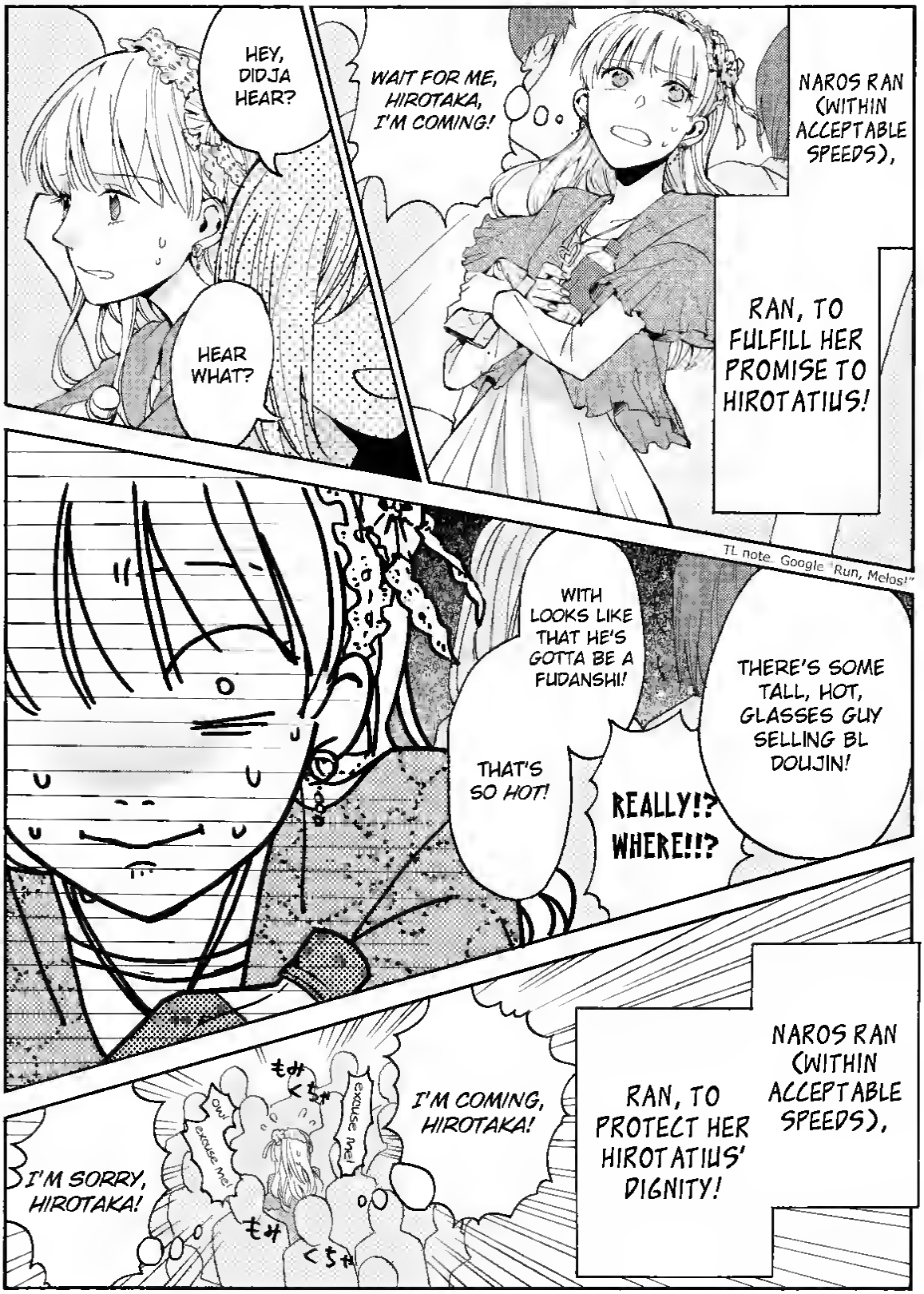
Narumi
go to bed
still so many groups to check ome
shiiiit, I'm super nervous!!
what should I wear?
I WONDER IF SHE'S ALRIGHT.
not dead, I hope
@ENTRANCE ATM
(`・ω・´)ゝ
MORNIN! ヽ(・∀・)ノ
WHERE U?
HEEEEEY ((`ω´三`ω´))
TRYING TO MEET UP AT COMIKET
Narumi
SHE WENT TO THE TROUBLE TO DRESS ALL CUTE,
BUT THOSE EYES ARE DANGER-OUS.
AND JOIN THE BATTLE!
MOMOSE NARUMI ENTERS THE FRAY!
桃瀬成海推参!
LET US GO,
ガラガラガラガラガラガラガラガラ
APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT, HIROTAKA!
ヤリ

Thank you so much!
That's 400 yen!
Oh hey! You came by last time too, right?
Thanks for stopping by again!
Ahaha, yeah, fortunately I was able to finish it in time somehow! lolol
The power of moe, right? ♡
○○×△△ is justice!!
Whaaaaat!?
The real ○○-san!?
Oh my god, thank you so much for coming!
Kyaaah! I don't know what to say!
I'm always looking at your art on Pixiv!
It's so beautiful!
I'm a huge fan!
Please keep up the great work!
I'll be rooting for you!
YES, THIS IS JEALOUSY.
...I'MMA GO FOR A SMOKE.
STAND
GOTCHA! HAVE A GOOD ONE!

KABAKURA
IF I'M BORED I'LL GO
KABAKURA, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COSPLAY WITH KOYANAGI?
HELL NO
KNIGHT
WHERE YOU AT?
IT'S FROM KABAKURA.
AH,
I JUST,
LEFT NARUMI'S BOOTH...
!
HEEY, NIFUJI!
I KNEW IT.
AH.
YO.
you're fuckin' tall, easy to find.
NARU

C-CLICK
C-CLICK
C-CLICK
KABA-KURA,
THAT "DUDE" IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
PLEASE DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS.
KYAAA!!
KYAAA♡
there's some-thing very wrong about those screams
I'm not even gonna look at it
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK I CAN DO ABOUT IT?

NOT ONLY IS IT IN THE OTHER HALL, IT'S ALSO IN THE SUPER-CROWDED DEAD ZONE!!!
I FORGOT TO HIT UP ONE OF THE GOD-BOOTHS!!!
X: Narumi
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SOUND LIKE A DYING MONKEY BEING RAN OVER BY A TRUCK.
あ！ AHHH!!! !!?!
NAH, GO ON.
I CAN BUY DOUJINSHI WHENEVER...
スッ
IT JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE...
IT'S NO GOOD... IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP...
BUY SOME TEA WHILE YOU'RE OUT.
THERE'S SOME BOOKS ONLY ON SALE TODAY, RIGHT?
I'LL WATCH YOUR BOOTH FOR YOU.
SHE THOUGHT HIM A GOD.


NAROS RAN (WITHIN ACCEPTABLE SPEEDS),
RAN, TO FULFILL HER PROMISE TO HIROTATIUS!
WAIT FOR ME, HIROTAKA, I'M COMING!
HEY, DIDJA HEAR?
HEAR WHAT?
TL note: Google "Run, Melos!"
THERE'S SOME TALL, HOT, GLASSES GUY SELLING BL DOUJIN!
REALLY!? WHERE!!?
WITH LOOKS LIKE THAT HE'S GOTTA BE A FUDANSHI!
THAT'S SO HOT!
NAROS RAN (WITHIN ACCEPTABLE SPEEDS),
RAN, TO PROTECT HER HIROTATIUS' DIGNITY!
I'M COMING, HIROTAKA!
I'M SORRY, HIROTAKA!
もみくちゃ
excuse me!
Ow! excuse me!

I WAS WORRIED IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN... TRAUMATIC?
NOT THAT!!
thanks
Here's your tea
WHEEZE WHEEZE
NO, IT WAS ACTUALLY KIND OF FUN.
I'M GOOD AT CALCULATING CHANGE.
IT'S FINE.
I'M SORRY!! I'M SO SORRY!!
WEL-COME BACK.
HIRO-TAKA!!
NA
TOO EXCITED TO SLEEP! COME SEE ME FIRST THING!
なるみ
GOOD NIGHT! ～ (^ 3 ^)ノ
MORNING! ～ (^ ▽ ^)!
I MADE IT TO THE SITE!
HEADING OVER
[NEWS FLASH] MR. HIFUJI SUBJECT TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT
w ww w oh god his hand he's touching me
w w w ooh, ohhh
NOT REALLY.
HEY, PRETTY BOY... HOW YOU FEELIN'?
DID YOU DRAW THIS? AREN'T YOU... ASHAMED?
RANDOM CREEPY OLD DUDE
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET ASKED SOMETHING LIKE THAT IRL.
..
I-Is he okay?!
swipe swipe
DETAILS!

roll
YEP. GOOD WORK.
FOR SOME REASON EVEN I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS NOW.
WHEW!
FINALLY OVER!
WELL NOW WE SHOULD HAVE SOME FREE TIME...
NEXT WEEKEND DO YOU WANT O GO-
...HIRO-TAKA.
AFTERWARDS, SHE SPENT HOURS IN A FAMILY RESTRAUNT WORKING ON DRAFTS.
BUSY, AREN'T YOU.
THE NEXT EVENT IS GONNA BE EVEN BIGGER!

CREDITS:

TO FUJITA, THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST
HTTP://WWW.PIXIV.NET/MEMBER.PHP?ID=3165269

I WROTE "DRAFT", BUT THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY TALKING ABOUT THE "NAME".
IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME THING.

PIXIV IS SORT OF LIKE A JAPANESE DEVIANTART I GUESS, BUT MAYBE WITH MORE PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS THAT USE IT? I'M NOT ACTUALLY ALL THAT FAMILIAR WITH IT OR DEVIANTART.

THE "DYING MONKEY" BIT IS A PRETTY LITERAL TRANSLATION THERE.

THERE ARE TWO "HALLS" (THOUGH EACH HAS SEVERAL SUB-HALLS) IN BIG SITE, THE LOCATION OF COMIKET. BIG SITE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME, AND IS IN FACT HUGE, SO IT TAKES A PRETTY LONG TIME TO WALK FROM EAST HALL TO WEST HALL AND VICE VERSA. THIS IS MADE EXPONENTIALLY WORSE WHEN FIGHTING THROUGH SWEATY THRONGS OF OTAKU.

IT'S POSSIBLE TO BUY MOST DOUJIN SOLD AT COMIKET EITHER ONLINE OR AT PHYSICAL STORES SUCH AS TORANOANA OR MELONBOOKS, BUT NOT ALL, AND EVEN THEN I THINK ONCE THEY SELL OUT *THERE* IT'S GONE FOR GOOD UNLESS YOU FIND IT ON EBAY/YAHOO AUCTIONS.

RUN, MELOS! IS SOME JAPANESE STORY FROM THE 40S BASED OFF A GERMAN STORY BASED OFF A GREEK LEGEND. IT'S ABOUT A DUDE NAMED MELOS WHO HAS TO RUN IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS FRIEND'S LIFE. SEEMS LIKE IT HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A MEME IN THE JAPANESE INTERNET.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO RUN AT COMIKET.

FUDANSHI IS THE MALE VERSION OF FUJOSHI; A DUDE WHO IS INTO BL.

THE ^o^ FACE YOU SEE NARUMI MAKE SOMETIMES IS THE "OWATA" FACE, USED IN A POPULAR JAPANESE EMOJI THAT SIGNIFIES "WELP, WE'RE DONE, GAME OVER, TIME TO DIE", THAT SORT OF "ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS LAUGH AS THE SWEET EMBRACE OF DEATH TAKES US" FEELING.

Woah, now, making a lot of simple mistakes there, sensei
...
If I tell her it's her fault...
she might stop...

Episode....4

LADY NARUMI.
FRIDAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED AGAIN.
MAY I INQUIRE AS TO YOUR PLANS FOR THE MORROW?
NOT MUCH.
JUST GOING TO LEAVE MYSELF TO WHIMS OF FATE, GOOD SIR.
PRO.
...SO, WANT TO-
THAT WAS FAST.
YES.
WELL, I KIND OF WANTED TO GO DRINKING TONIGHT ANYWAY.
I SHALL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE, M'LORD!
REALLY?
NARUMI: TRYING IN VAIN TO REMEMBER WHAT COLOR HER UNDERWEAR IS.
tink
MY PLACE THEN.

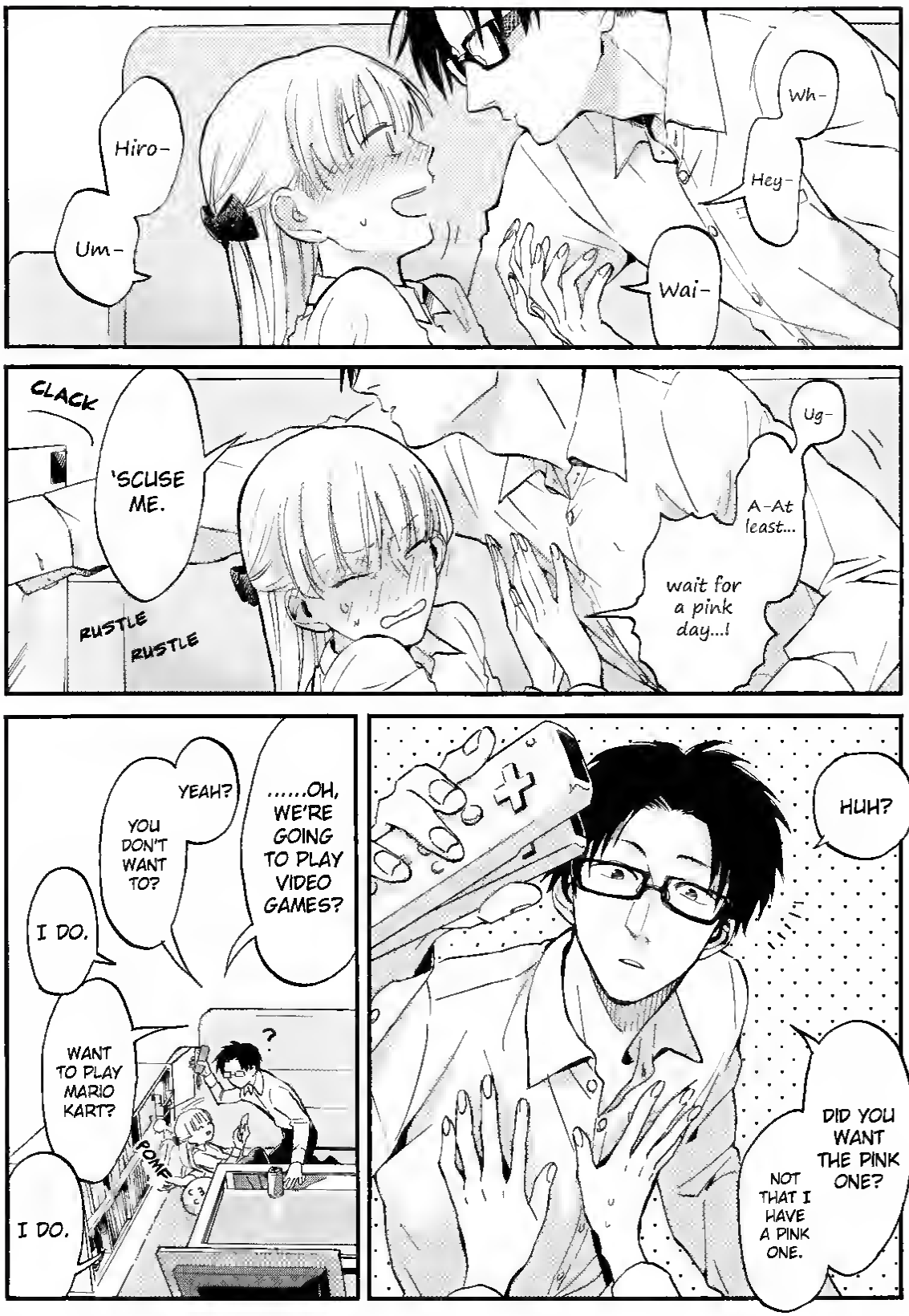
'URRY UP.
...WHAT?
...
SORRY, IT'S JUST,
THAT WAS THE MOST SURPRISED I'VE BEEN ALL YEAR.
YEAH, I COULD TELL.
I'M ALMOST DONE MYSELF.
TWO MIN-UTES.
OH.
HE'S BEING BASHFUL.
NARUMI: ABLE TO READ HIROTAKA'S FACE, BUT UNABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT COLOR HER UNDERWEAR IS!
SHIT.
I FORGOT TO CHECK WHEN I WENT TO THE BATHROOM.

OH, SO YOU COMMUTE BY BUS?
YEAH. I PICKED THIS APARTMENT BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSE TO WORK.
I KNOW THAT FEELING!
I PICKED MINE SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO CHANGE TRAINS ANY.
HEY, WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER A LOT AS KIDS, RIGHT?
YEP.
WE'D PLAY VIDEO GAMES AT YOUR HOUSE UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN.
UH HUH
Oh hey, a Mate
WE PLAYED SO MUCH, BUT I WONDER HOW THAT GOT STARTED.
FEELS LIKE WE JUST SUDDENLY STARTED HANGING OUT ONE DAY.
FUNNY HOW THAT HAPPENS, HUH?
HM?
SURE IS.
SO, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT MADE YOU A FUJOSHI?
AGH!
SMACK
MY HEAD!

I NEED TO,
LIKE, SAY SOME-THING.
SO...
OH MAN.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
sit
OKAY.
?
...
smell
smell
COME ON, YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS WHOSE HOUSE KINDA SMELLED GOOD?
I MEAN, YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAN TELL FROM THE AIR LIKE "WOW, SOMEONE REALLY LIVES HERE..."
IT'S LIKE, THE HIROTAKA SMELL.
NO NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
I TRY NOT TO SMOKE IN HERE... DOES IT SMELL?
...WHENEVER I GO TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE I ALWAYS SMELL IT, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HUH?
AUGH! NOW HE THINKS I'M WEIRD!
OH GOD WHAT AM I SAYING.
FOOT, MEET MOUTH.
HMMM...?
ACTUALLY, THINKING ABOUT IT, I NEVER HAD ANY FRIENDS SO I'VE NEVER BEEN OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE BEFORE.

ASAHI SUPER
...
RELAX ALREADY. YEAH?
IS BEER OKAY?
DRRRYYY.
CLANK CLANK
UH, SURE.
...SO, ER, HIROTAKA, UH...
AW MAN, WHY AM I SO NERVOUS?
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT A GUY'S PLACE.
THIS ISN'T LIKE BACK WHEN I PLAYED AT HIROTAKA'S HOUSE ALL THE TIME.
NOW, WE'RE...
click click click
click click click

CALM DOWN, NARUMI! WHY SHOULD YOU BE FREAKING OUT!? IT'S JUST HIROTAKA!
THIS IS THE GUY WHO PEOPLE CAN'T TELL IF HE'S AWAKE OR SLEEPING WITH HIS EYES OPEN!
m'lord
dost hath eadth, you know?
HE'S NOT GOING TO INVITE SOMEONE OVER AND DO THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE NERVE OR THE INCLINATION. I KNOW THAT BETTER THAN
ANYONE...
creak
AND THEN NARUMI REMEMBERED...
THAT HIROTAKA IS A MAN,
AND THAT HER UNDERWEAR IS BEIGE.


Hiro-
Um-
Wh-
Hey-
Wai-
CLACK
'SCUSE ME.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Ug-
A-At least...
wait for a pink day...!
YEAH?
YOU DON'T WANT TO?
I DO.
.....OH, WE'RE GOING TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES?
WANT TO PLAY MARIO KART?
?
POMF
I DO.
HUH?
DID YOU WANT THE PINK ONE?
NOT THAT I HAVE A PINK ONE.

ALRIGHT WHO THE HELL LEFT THIS BANANA PEEL UNDER THE ITEM BLOCKS!?
GOD DAMMIT! FUCK YOU TWHOMP!
TWIST
WAIT, YOU ALREADY FINISHED!?
SQUEEAL
TURN
OH.
PIRO-RIN PIRO-RIN
YEAH.
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOOK AWAY, HIROTAKA!?
Hm?
SORRY, WE GOT STUCK WITH SOME OVERTIME.
THANKS FOR HAVING US!
WE ALREADY STARTED SOME MARIO KART.
GLAD YOU MADE IT.
WOOOOAH!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
WE BOUGHT SOME DRINKS.
ASAHI SUPER
SUN-TORY.
NIFUJI, IMMA BORROW YOUR FRIDGE.
OH?
DID I NOT MENTION THAT?
NO.
NARUU!♥ HOW'S IT GOING?
A SLEEPOVER AT A COWORKER'S PLACE, IT'S LIKE WE'RE STUDENTS AGAIN! ISN'T IT EXCITING?
UH... SLEEP... OVER?
Congratulations!
You have avoided the night battle route!_

du du du dudu du dudu du
OH COME ON, STAY AWAY FROM- AARGH!
SCREW YOU, I CAN HEAR THAT STAR!
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU.
KABAKURA, WHERE ARE YOU?
YOU KNOW,
YA JERK.
I GOT ALL WORKED UP FOR NOTHING.
DON'T YOU "YEP" ME!
YEP.
Papuff
THINGS SURE GOT LIVELY QUICK.
RAGE RAGE
Woah! Fuck you, Thwomp!
Fall, ya bean stalk
Shad- dup.
Call us when- ever you want.
WHAT IS?
WHAT'S UP?
IT IS FOR- GIVEN.
I'M REALLY HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
PLAYING WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE LIKE THIS?
I'D NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.

Credits: 1

Author and Artist -> Fujita

Notes: 9999

Most people in Japan commute to work by public transit of some form.

When Narumi says "oh hey, a 'mate," she's referring to the anime/manga/etc. store "Animate."
Who's surprised Hirotaka lives near one of those?

Fujoshi: you know what this means, don't lie to me!

⌒ ω ⌒

Asahi is a Japanese beverage company famous for their beer (and other things). One of their brands is called "Asahi Super Dry," which happened to have a series of funny commercials where the narrator pronounced it with a silly accent, especially the "dry."

Have some links!
Some of the original commercials:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGLJLWAI7wA

A video made using the above that got popular on Niconico, the Japanese Youtube equivalent:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18QEX8mbK3A

Donkey Kong.

"Premium Malt's" is another beer brand, by Suntory, a major competitor of Asahi.
The apostrophe is part of the name, yes.

Did you know Japan has (mostly) standardized ways to write the sound effects in Mario games?
Also, they call Thwomp 'Dossun-senpai.'

THE QUOTES AROUND DRY
REALLY BOTHER ME

THWOMP

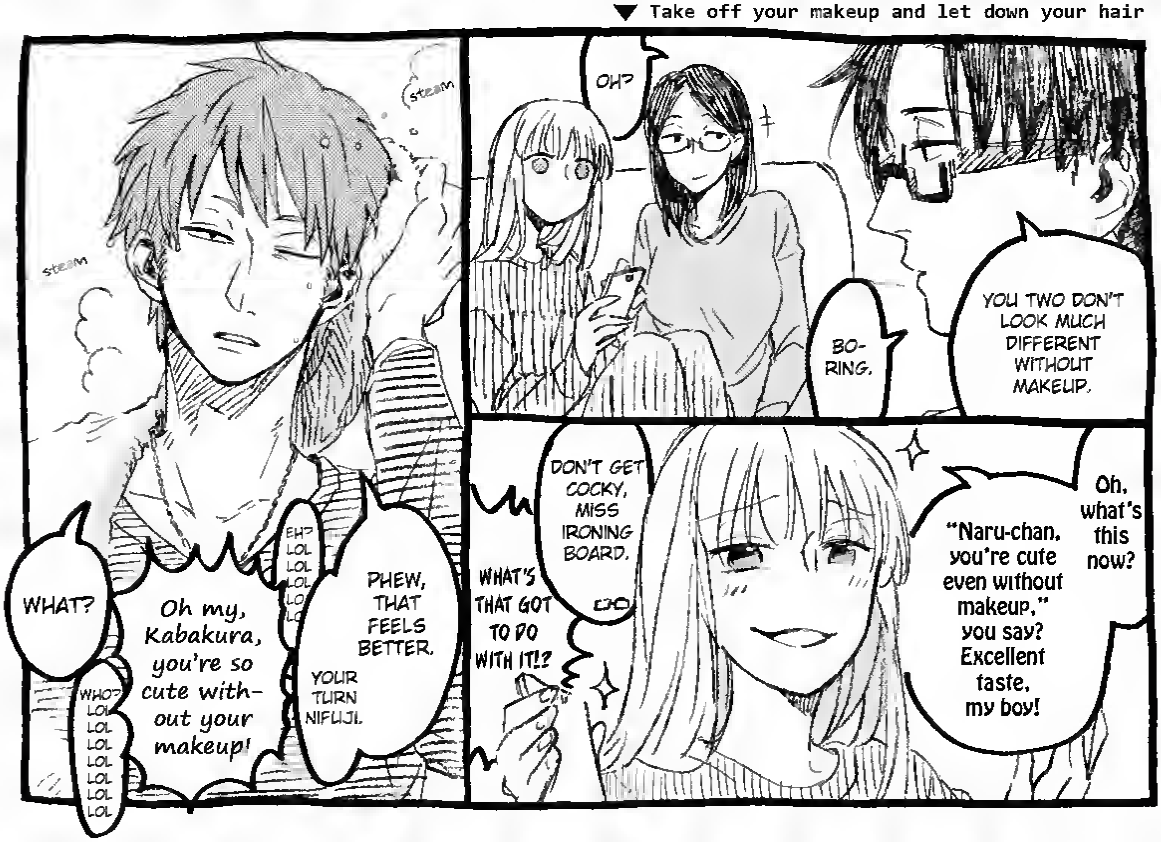
AN ANIMATE

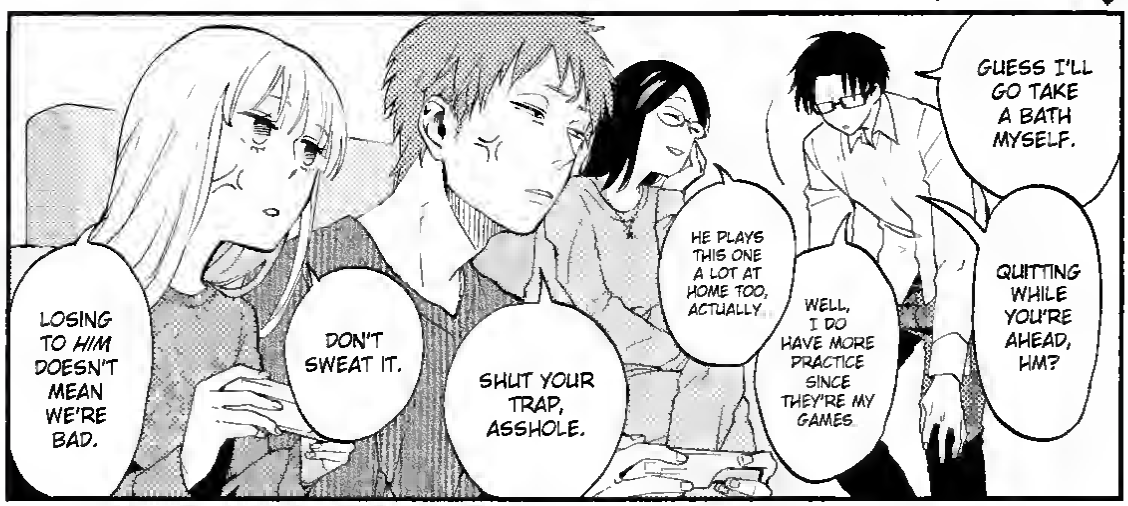
▼ How they are during time off

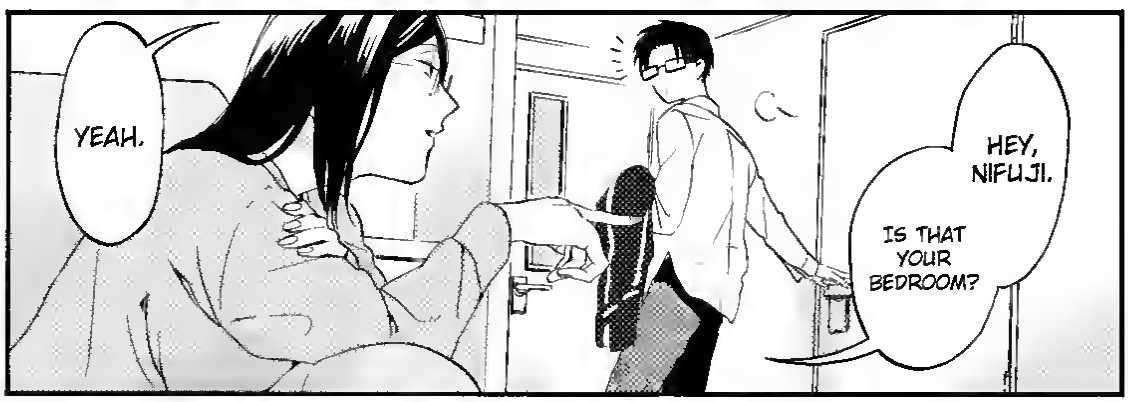
▼Make you understand

NEVER GONNA LET YOU DOWN.
NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP?
NO! HOW AM I GONNA MAKE YOU UNDER-STAND...
NO.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU COME WITH.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE BUYING UNDERWEAR FROM A CONVENIENCE STORE AT THIS AGE.
TRUE.
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO INVITE OTHER PEOPLE, YOU SHOULD LET HER KNOW THAT BEFORE HAND...
DUDE, MAYBE THIS ISN'T MY PLACE TO SAY...
ER...I MEAN, YOU'RE BOTH ADULTS, YOU KNOW?

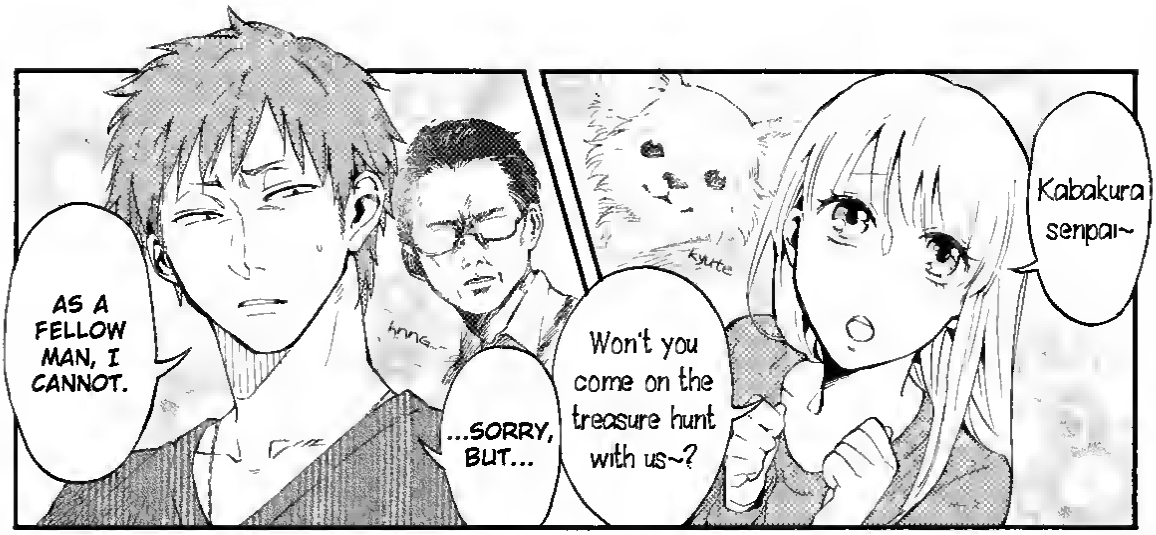
▼ Yeah, pretty big
Naru...
Let me see your panties before you show Nifuji.
STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
AW, TOO BAD.
BIG.


▼ Take off your makeup and let down your hair
OH?
BO-RING.
YOU TWO DON'T LOOK MUCH DIFFERENT WITHOUT MAKEUP.
Oh, what's this now?
"Naru-chan, you're cute even without makeup," you say? Excellent taste, my boy!
DON'T GET COCKY, MISS IRONING BOARD.
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT!?
steam
steam
WHAT?
Oh my, Kabakura, you're so cute without your makeup!
PHEW, THAT FEELS BETTER.
YOUR TURN NIFUJI.
EH? LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL
WHO? LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL

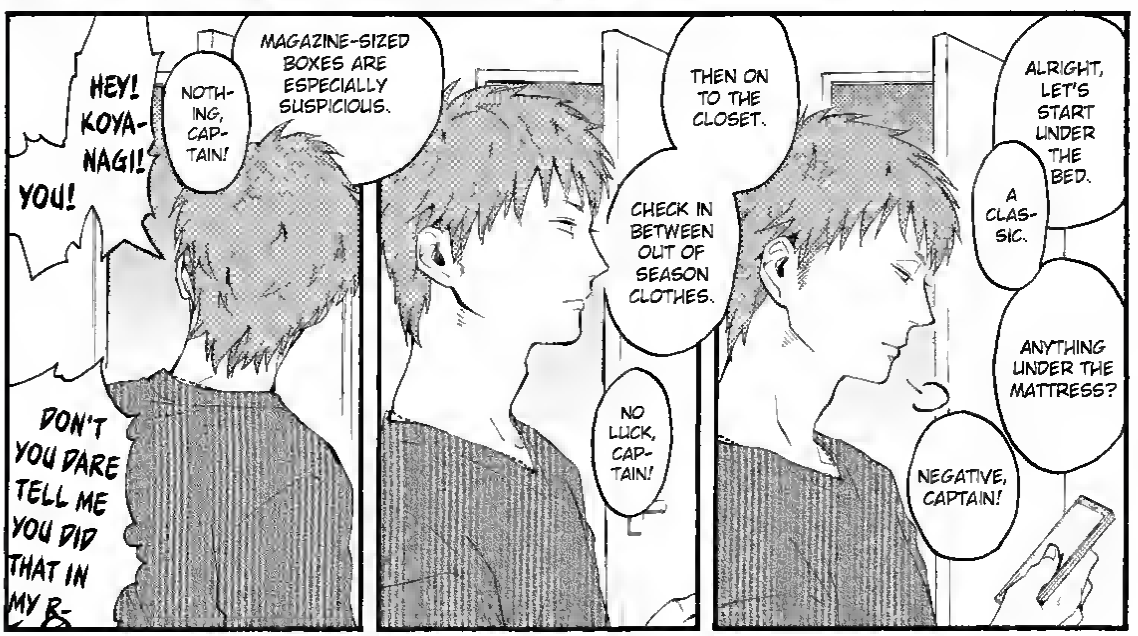

GUESS I'LL GO TAKE A BATH MYSELF.
QUITTING WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD, HM?
WELL, I DO HAVE MORE PRACTICE SINCE THEY'RE MY GAMES.
HE PLAYS THIS ONE A LOT AT HOME TOO, ACTUALLY.
SHUT YOUR TRAP, ASSHOLE.
DON'T SWEAT IT.
LOSING TO HIM DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE BAD.

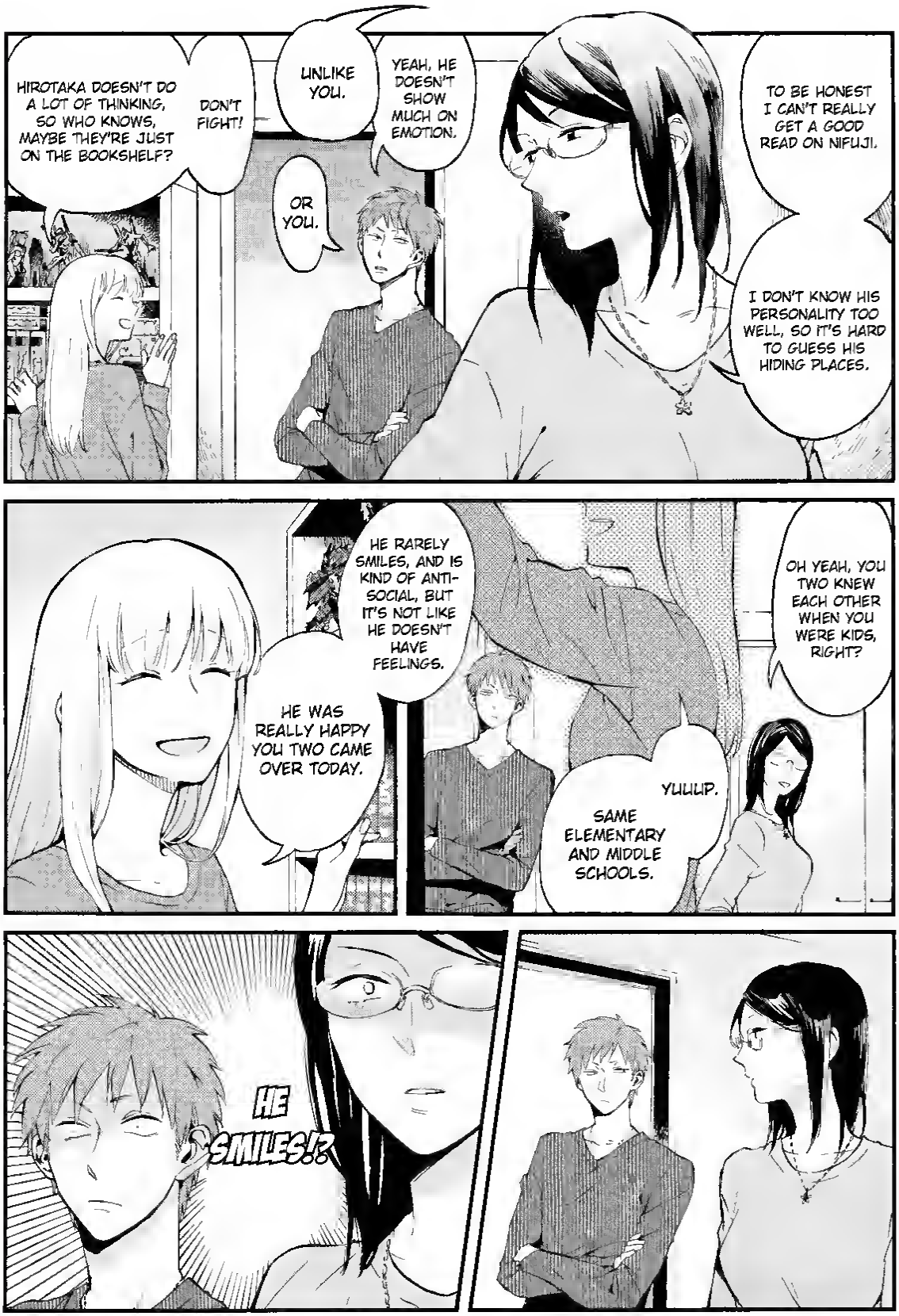

HEY, NIFUJI.
IS THAT YOUR BEDROOM?
YEAH.

CAN WE GO ON A PORN TREASURE HUNT?
SURE.
OF COURSE NOT!
"SURE" !?
ARE YOU DAFT, MAN!?


Kabakura senpai~
kyurte
Won't you come on the treasure hunt with us~?
...SORRY, BUT...
hmng...
AS A FELLOW MAN, I CANNOT.

GO TO BED, COWARD.
Ready, Naru? ♥
YES MA'AM.
MO-MOSE.
CALL ME IF SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU.
SHE'S KIND OF DRUNK.
YES SIR.
LET'S FORGET HIM AND EXPLORE WITH JUST THE TWO OF US, OKAY?
IMMA BREAK THOSE GLASSES, FOUR-EYES.


ALRIGHT, LET'S START UNDER THE BED.
A CLAS-SIC.
ANYTHING UNDER THE MATTRESS?
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN!
THEN ON TO THE CLOSET.
CHECK IN BETWEEN OUT OF SEASON CLOTHES.
NO LUCK, CAP-TAIN!
MAGAZINE-SIZED BOXES ARE ESPECIALLY SUSPICIOUS.
NOTH-ING, CAP-TAIN!
HEY! KOYA-NAGI! YOU!
DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME YOU DID THAT IN MY B-


TO BE HONEST I CAN'T REALLY GET A GOOD READ ON NIFUJI.
I DON'T KNOW HIS PERSONALITY TOO WELL, SO IT'S HARD TO GUESS HIS HIDING PLACES.
YEAH, HE DOESN'T SHOW MUCH ON EMOTION.
UNLIKE YOU.
OR YOU.
DON'T FIGHT!
HIROTAKA DOESN'T DO A LOT OF THINKING, SO WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THEY'RE JUST ON THE BOOKSHELF?
OH YEAH, YOU TWO KNEW EACH OTHER WHEN YOU WERE KIDS, RIGHT?
YUUUP.
SAME ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.
HE RARELY SMILES, AND IS KIND OF ANTI-SOCIAL, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE DOESN'T HAVE FEELINGS.
HE WAS REALLY HAPPY YOU TWO CAME OVER TODAY.
HE ♪SMILES!?

HOW STRANGE WOULD IT BE FOR ONE OF US, "OTAKU," THE EMBODIMENT OF JAPANESE FONDESS FOR SUCH SENTIMENTALITY, TO NOT HAVE ANY PORN BOOKS!?
NOT AS STRANGE AS YOU'RE BEING RIGHT NOW!
NO MATTER HOW DIGITALIZED THINGS BECOME, THE ALLURE OF PAPER MEDIA DOESN'T FADE!
IMPOSSIBLE!
ARE YOU DONE?
IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT AFTER ALL THAT, MAYBE IT'S JUST NOT THERE?
OKAY I GET IT YOU'RE JUST TIRED AREN'T YOU!?
WE CANNOT FORGET THE HEART OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!

MAN, WE USED TO PLAY AND TRADE THIS ONE ALL THE TIME, EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T REALLY GET THE RULES.
OOOH! I KNOW THESE!
OLD TOYS AND CARD GAMES!
IT'S LIKE A TIME CAPS- UUU!!
MM!
OPEN
LEAN
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT, WHAT A NOSTALGIA BOMB.
WHERE'D THOSE TWO GO?
WHA-! HIRO-TAKA!?
THEY WENT TO GO GRAB FOOD.
OH...
WAIT, WASN'T THAT BATH TOO FAST?
IT WAS ONLY THREE PAGES!
YOU THINK? I'M MORE OF A SHOWER PERSON, SO...
ANYWAY, I'LL FORGET THAT PAGE COUNT THING YOU JUST SAID.
Toss
NICE SHOT

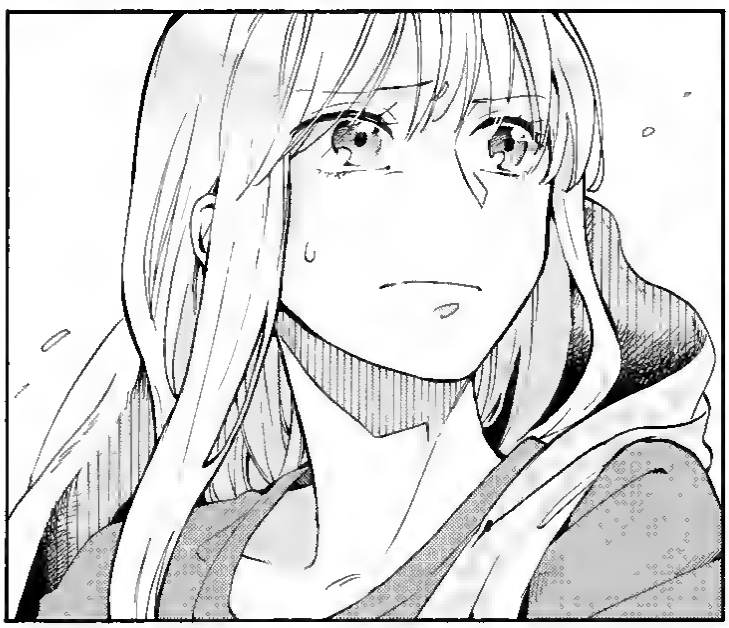
I SEE YOU WERE THE SAME EVEN BACK THEN, THOUGH.
NOTHING BUT STRONG CHARACTERS IN HERE, THAT'S OUR HIROTAKA FOR YOU!
REALLY THOUGH, THIS IS SUPER NOSTALGIC.
I REMEMBER COLLECTING THESE BECAUSE MY FRIENDS WERE INTO IT, BUT WHO KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE NOW.
I TRADED A WAY WEAKER ONE FOR IT, BUT...
"I'D RATHER HAVE A CUTE ONE THAN A STRONG ONE."
YEAH?
I TRADED FOR THAT ONE.
THAT ONE...
THAT WAS HOW IT "GOT STARTED."
...I THINK

FEELS LIKE WE JUST STARTED SUDDENLY HANGING OUT

!

UNLIKE ME,
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS AND HOBBIES.
SO YOU HAD A LOT OF OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

W-
Wha-
are you
stahp
Hm
WELL, YOU KNOW.



CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER THEM ALL.

I WANT TO BE FAIR WITH YOU.
HUH?
SORRY, I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW.
IN FRONT OF YOU,
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO PRETEND, OR TO HOLD ANYTHING BACK.
AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO, EITHER!
BUT IF YOU SAY "CAN'T BE HELPED" AND GIVE UP, IT'S LIKE, SAD, OR...
PAINFUL, RIGHT?
SO IF YOU FEEL AT ALL LIKE I'VE HURT YOU,
I WANT YOU TO GO AHEAD AND HIT ME ONCE TO MAKE IT FAIR!
OKAY.
EH?

I MEAN, A PUNCH FROM *YOU* IS ABOUT AS DANGEROUS AS A MOSQUITO BITE, YEAH...
ACTUALLY, IF ANYTHING THE MOSQUITO IS PROBABLY THE STRONGER ONE...
...RIGHT, OKAY, THAT'S FINE.
THIS IS FINE.
AH! BUT! YOU SHOULD PROBABLY CUT IT BACK TO ABOUT SIXTY...NO, FORTY PERCENT POWER!
I MEAN HEY, IF YOU HURT YOUR WRIST IT'LL GET IN THE WAY OF PLAYING GAMES, AND-
NARUMI.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY CLOSE YOUR MOUTH.
'KAY!

IT'S FAIR, RIGHT?
...WHY?
UNFAIR ATTACK!

EVEN MORESO IT'S LIKE, "OH, EVEN HIROTAKA WANTS TO KISS SOMETIMES..."
I MEAN, IT WASN'T THAT KIND OF MOOD AT ALL, FOR ONE. BUT...
...NARUMI.
ARE YOU MAD?
NAH, I'M NOT MAD, I'M MORE...
SURPRISED?
stop kicking, you
turn this way, you
I AM STILL A MAN.
...WELL
OBVIOUSLY.
Do you like boobs?
HEY, WHY ARE YOU STARING AT MY FIGURE SHELVES?
HM? WAIT, WHAT NOW?
YOU DO LOVE YOU SOME BIG BOOBIES, AFTER ALL.
AH... RIGHT.
...
...

>Omake_
IT'S ODDLY QUIET, THOUGH...
I HOPE THEY AREN'T FIGHTING...
AW HECK, WE LEFT THOSE TWO ALONE THIS WHOLE TIME.
Oh

...?
!!?
YOU MENTIONED PINK THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
>Monday_
WHAT MIGHT IT BE, M'LORD?
BY THE BY, LADY NARUMI.
E-EVEN I DON'T WEAR BEIGE EVERY DAY!
ER, NO, THAT WAS-!
THAT DAY JUST SO HAPPENED TO...!
PLEASE DO.
...I'LL VISIT AGAIN SOME-TIME
YEP, I DID.
AND YOU BOUGHT IT
YEP, THEY DID.
THEY HAD A PINK ONE.
OOH.
HM?
pink
WHY ARE ALL THESE BIG BREAST PORN BOOKS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE IN MY DESK!?
...WAIT, WHAT!?
>Continue...?_

▼ Deja vu

GALATIC CREDITS:

AUTHOR AND ARTIST -> FUJITA

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES:

THE RICKROLL BIT AT THE BEGINNING IS ACTUALLY A REFERENCE TO A JAPANESE SONG THAT'S... SURPRSINGLY SIMILAR.

HERE IT IS:
HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IACCGISG45G

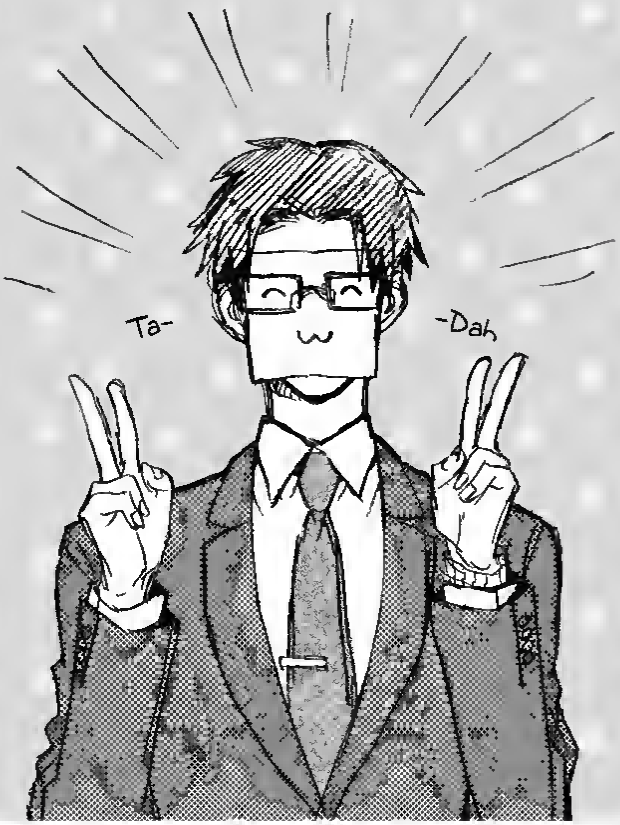
YES, YOU CAN BUY UNDERWEAR, AS WELL AS THINGS LIKE TIGHTS, DRESS SHIRTS, AND MORE, AT JAPANESE CONVENIENCE STORES. THEY ARE NOT SUPER HIGH QUALITY, BUT ANY PORT IN A STORM.

THOSE PENCIL THINGS IN THE BOX/FLASHBACK ARE "BATTLE PENCILS." EACH PENCIL IS A DIFFERENT CHARACTER, AND ON EACH SIDE OF THE PENCIL THERE ARE DIFFERENT OUTCOMES WRITTEN. YOU THEN FIGHT OTHER PEOPLE'S PENCILS BY ROLLING THE PENCIL LIKE A DICE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

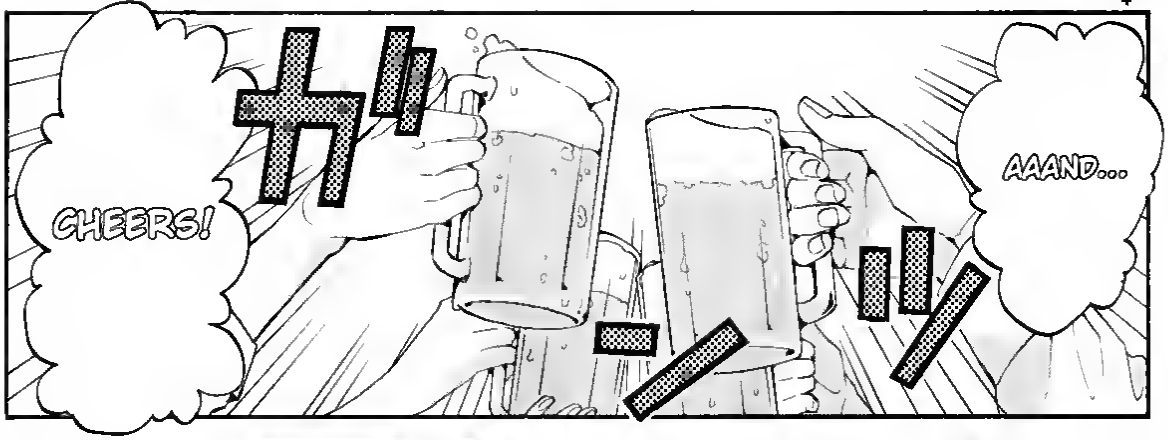
THE MAIN DRAW IS THAT (IN THEORY) YOU CAN PLAY WITH THEM AT SCHOOL, WHERE USUALLY YOU CAN'T BRING IN TOYS OR GAMES OR WHATEVER.
OBVIOUSLY AIMED MOSTLY AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS.

IN THE PIXIV VERSION OF THIS CHAPTER, THE OPENING PANEL WITH KABAKURA AND HANAKO ON THE COUCH, IT HAD TEXT SAYING THAT "THIS IS FIVE MINUTES BEFORE BEING MADE TO GO BUY UNDERWEAR"

AWW, THEY MATCH :3


Ta-
-Dah

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....


CHEERS!
AAAND...

SINCE WE'RE HERE, WE SHOULD TRY TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WE CAN ONLY TALK ABOUT AFTER A FEW DRINKS.
TOO META FOR ME.
WHEW, GOOD JOB EVERYONE!
WHY? AND WHAT WOULD THAT EVEN BE?
WE ACTUALLY MADE IT TO THE END OF VOLUME ONE. NICE WORK!

THAT WAS FAST
Excuse me
Can we get some water?

LOVE, OBVIOUSLY.

It's happening faster than usual...
She's barely even drank any of that beer...
Bulls-eye
!!!
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE HAVE ANY SEX APPEAL, SO-
COME ON, YOU TWO ARE DATING RIGHT?
CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE LOVEY-DOVEY?
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME ALREADY, IT'S FINE.
don't tell me that
you do nothing but fight all the time!
YEAH, WELL...
HOW ABOUT YOU TWO TRY GETTING ALONG BETTER, THEN!
Itch
NO IT'S NOT!

(They got really mad)

LET'S STICK TO SOFT DRINKS FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT, OKAY?
HEY, KOYANAGI,
WAIT WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
YEAH, SHE'S A LITTLE WORSE THAN USUAL TODAY...
THOSE BOOBS ARE OUTRA-GEOUS.
YOU SHOULD REALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME HANAKO,
LIKE YOU DO AT HOME.
OH BOY...
GON
YOU LOW!!
ALRIGHT YOU...
DON'T TRY TO PUT ON A CUTE FACE AND GET SMART WITH ME.

OH, I'M WELL AWARE!
GIRLS LIKE NARUMI ARE EXACTLY YOUR TYPE, AREN'T THEY!
EH?
EH?
(#°ω°)ɜ
EH?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WALKED OUT OF A 'MOST WANTED' POSTER!
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE THE FACE TO BE CALLING OTHER PEOPLE NAMES!
WHO'S THE ONE WHO CONFESSED TO A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE A CRIMINAL THEN, HUH!?
OH YEAH, AND WHAT OF IT!?
AND MINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SMALL, CUTE GIRLS LIKE RANKA, YOU BOVINE!
MY TYPE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLASSIC PRINCE CHARACTERS, AND NOTHING BUT!
WHAAT!? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CONFESSED TO ME, DUMBASS! GOING SENILE ALREADY?

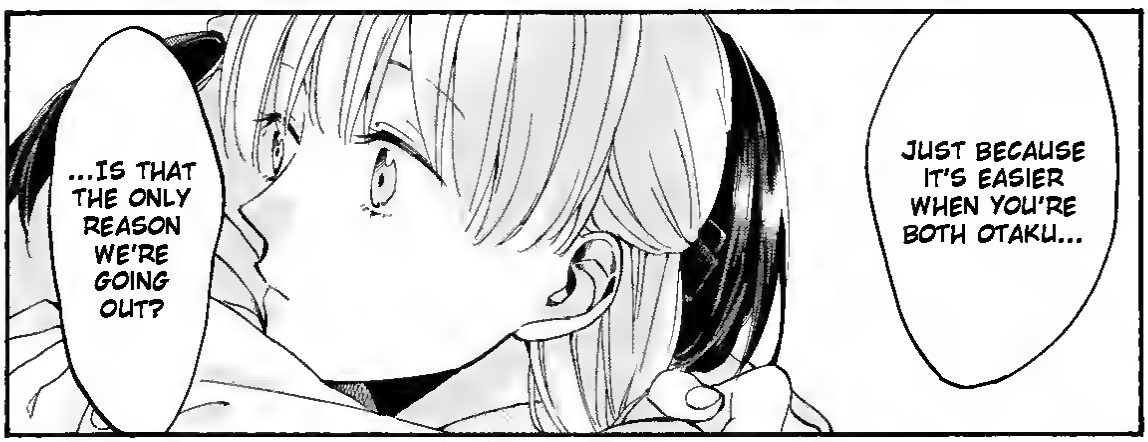
JEEZ, YOU TWO ARE SUCH TSUNDERE, AREN'T YOU!
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE TURNS SAYING SOMETHING YOU LIKE ABOUT THE OTHER AND MAKE UP, HM?
Narumi, with the perfect defusal!
KABAKURA, WHY DON'T YOU START?
NO NEED TO BE BASHFUL, JUST SAY WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART!
...YOUR GIANT TITS.

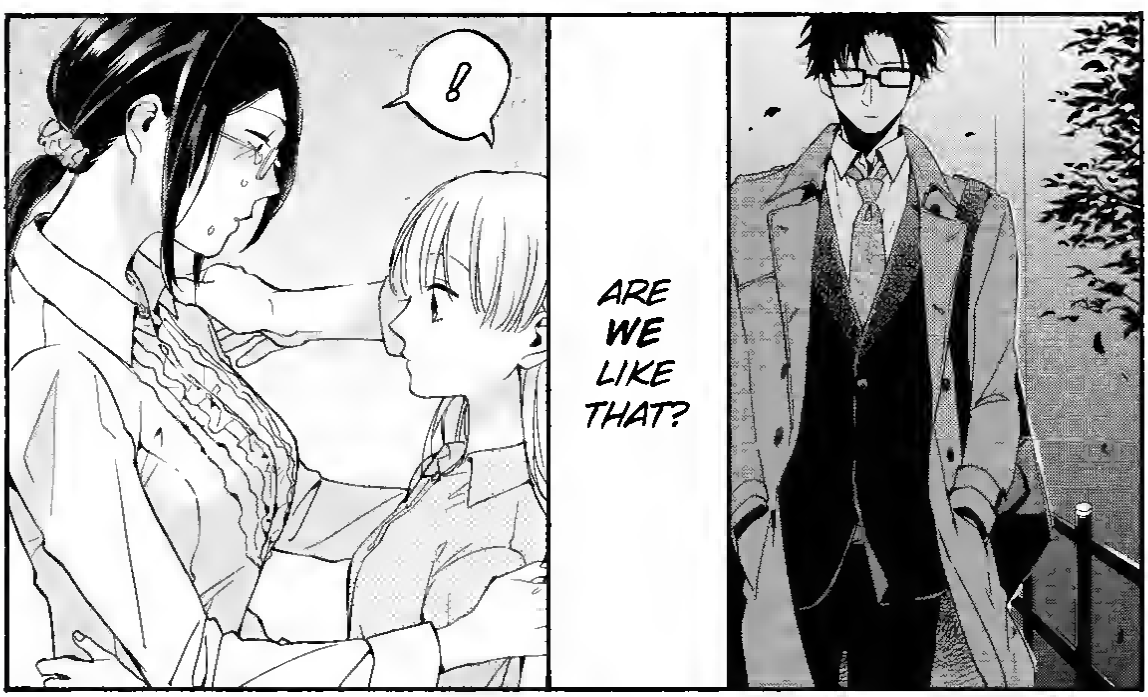
KOYA-NAGI, OKAY, CHILL!
SHUT UP, BAKAKURA!
I KNOW I...
I CAN'T...
I can never be...
...your Ranka!
WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE SHERYL!?
KABA-KURA!!
KOYA-NAGI!
HANA!

WAIT, HANA!
LET'S CALM DOWN A LITTLE OKAY?
WE'RE ALL A LITTLE TIPSY, I'M SURE KABAKURA JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY MESSING AROUND.
RIGHT? WHY DON'T WE GO BACK AND MAKE UP?
...
...I can't...
AAAHH, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
ALL WE EVER DO IS FIGHT!
WHY DO WE ALWAYS SAY THOSE THINGS!?
WHAT IF WE START REALLY HATING EACH OTHER...
squeeze!!
WOAH, THESE BOOBS!
THESE BOOBS!
I-IT'LL BE FINE!
NOBODY COULD HATE SUCH A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU!
there there there there there there
JEEEZ, THAT KABAKURA, I'LL SEND HIM TO DAVEY JONES' LOCKER FOR YOU!
I'LL WRITE HIM INTO ONE OF THOSE VIOLENT H-DOUJIN SITUATIONS!
SO DON'T CRY, HANA~!

*-the 'umi' in Narumi means ocean

WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
IS HE REALLY OKAY WITH ME...?
IS HE JUST SETTLING?
JUST BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO DATE SOMEONE 'NORMAL' AS AN OTAKU,


JUST BECAUSE IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU'RE BOTH OTAKU...
...IS THAT THE ONLY REASON WE'RE GOING OUT?


ARE WE LIKE THAT?

I'LL TAKE OVER.
KABA-KURA!
WE'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE,
SO YOU AND NIFUJI GO AHEAD AND ORDER ANOTHER ROUND.
THANKS.
O...
OKAY~
tip toe
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
WHAT IF THEY START FIGHTING AGAIN!?
NO EAVES-DROPPING, LADY NARUMI.
WE'RE AT THE BEST PART!

I SWEAR...
ALCOHOL TURNS YOUR PAIN-IN-THE-ASS DIAL UP TO ELEVEN.
MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE TO THOSE TWO LATER, OKAY?
hmph
...YOU HEARD, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, HOW IS IT?
...TRUE,
THERE ARE A MILLION CUTER, EASIER TO DEAL WITH OTAKU GIRLS OUT THERE IF YOU LOOK.
EVEN ONES WITH BIG B-
OH, REALLY!?
ニヤッ
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO...
catch
FINALLY WILLING TO LOOK AT ME?
MISS COW.

Even though you can't say one nice thing..
EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS CALL ME A PAIN,
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ALWAYS CALLING ME 'COW,'
...WHY.
...WAIT.
sniff
sniff
sniff
YEAH, I KNOW.
Piece of shit
I CAN HEAR THAT.
TEACHER.
I STOPPED HER.
HUH?
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU CRYING, MOMOSE?
sniff
sniff
sniff
sniff

Creditors:

Artist & Author -> Fujita

Newts:

On page two, Narumi is holding Pocky and Hirotaka is holding Pretz, a salty, chocolate-less, Pocky-like snack by the same company that makes Pocky.

Btw, in Japanese, Pocky is pronounced more like "poe key" than "hockey" and Pretz is pronounced more like "preets" than "pretzel"

"Here" is an izakaya, a common style of restaurant in Japan that is sort of like a cross between a normal sit-down restaurant and a bar. They are very popular venues for parties or drinking with friends.

Some have private rooms for some tables, and do the "traditional" style where you sit on mats on the floor instead of chairs, as can be seen here. For that type you generally are required to take your shoes off before going into the room, which helps explain how easy it was to throw that shoe in Kabakura's face.

GONG is a song by Jam Project. It's the opening theme to "3rd Super Robot Wars Alpha: To the End of the Galaxy," and has a lot of popularity within the otaku community--it was included in the most famous Nico Nico Medley and is a popular song choice at karaoke.
instrumental: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6YoTGrUAQ4
vocal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1l8dfqFv1s

Ranka and Sheryl are from Macross Frontier. I think they were both potential love interests to the main character guy, but apparently he went with Sheryl in the end. Didn't watch it and don't care to read the wiki, sorry folks :(

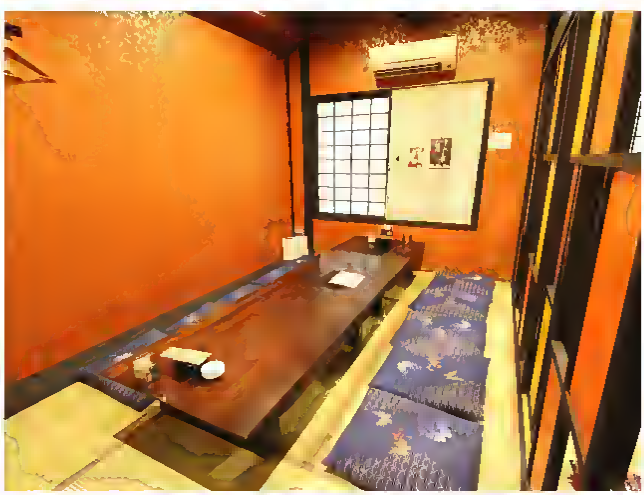
Not going over 'tsundere' either.

The idea re: Davy Jones' locker is that she's playing off the 海 (umi, ocean) in 成海 (Narumi)

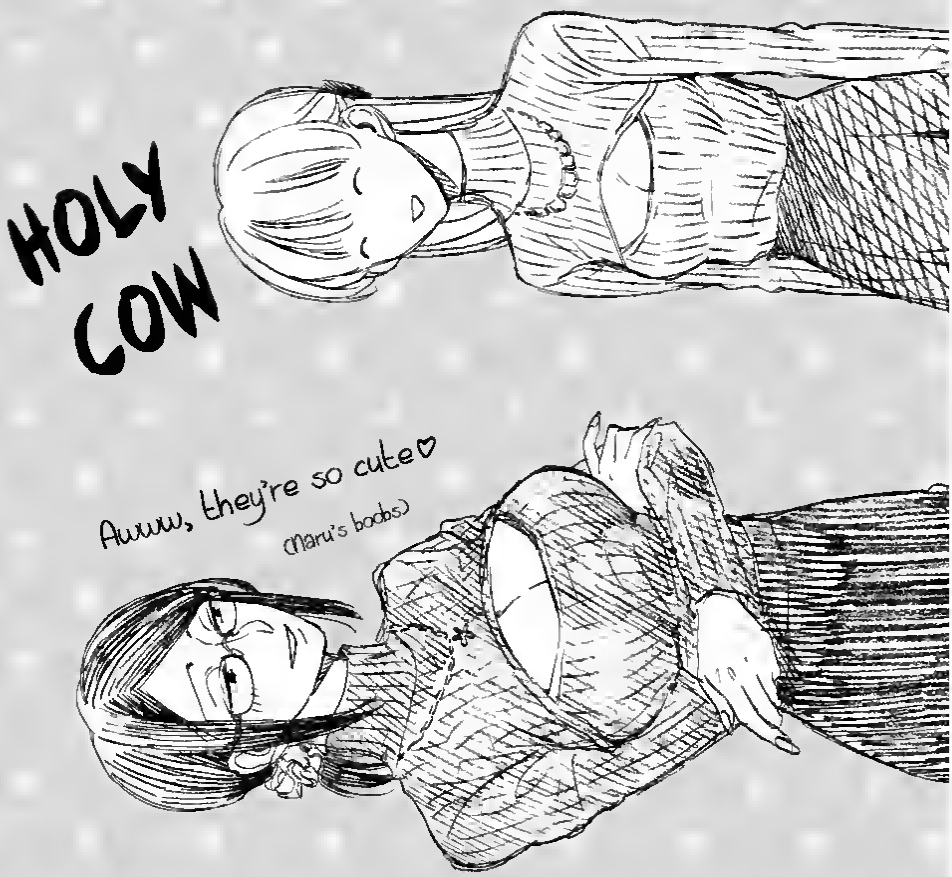
I'm not sure those two have a very healthy relationship.

SHERYL ↓

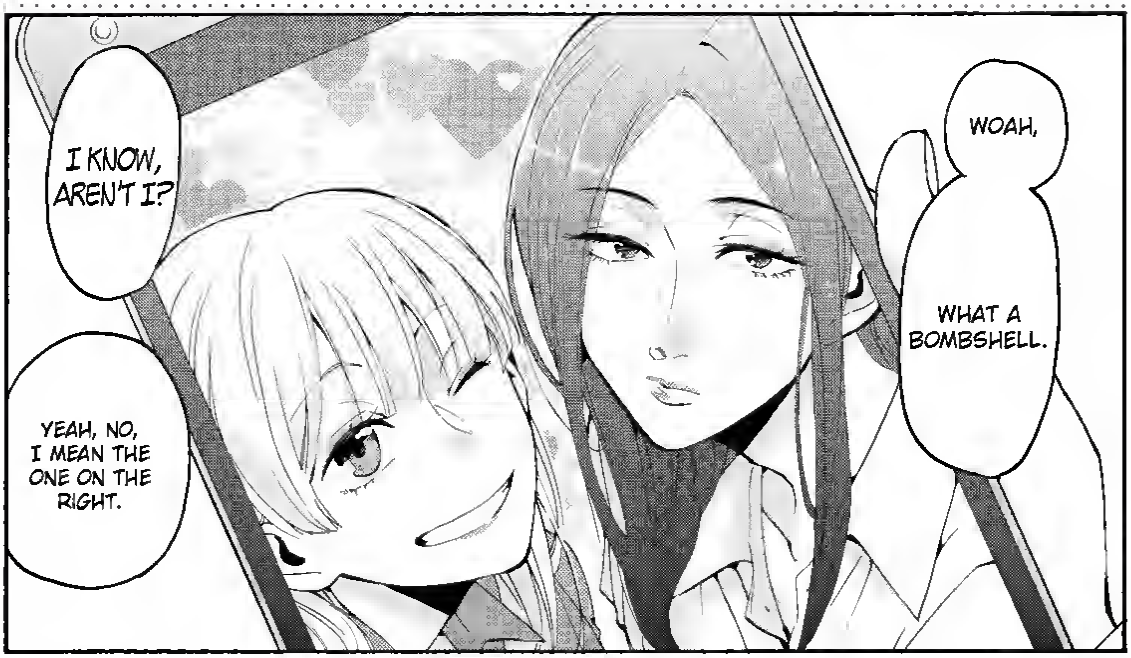
←RANKA



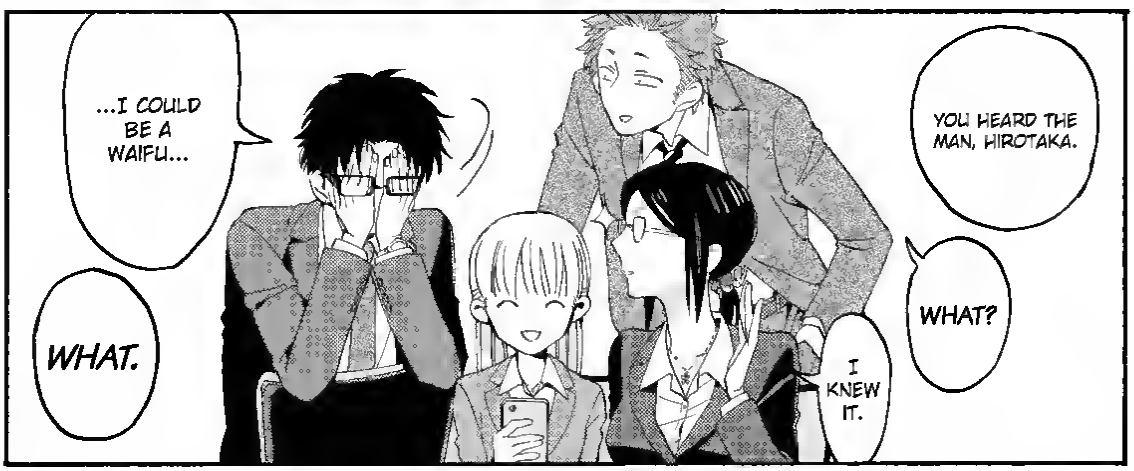
EXAMPLE OF A PRIVATE ROOM IN AN IZAYAKA


HOLY COW
Awww, they're so cute♡
(Haru's boobs)

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....??


WOAH,
WHAT A BOMBSHELL.
I KNOW, AREN'T I?
YEAH, NO, I MEAN THE ONE ON THE RIGHT.

THIS IS IN COSPLAY THOUGH.
REALLY? SO SHE'S AN OTAKU TOO?
COSPLAY'S FINE BY ME, SO INTRODUCE ME NEXT TIME!
HA HA HA!


YOU HEARD THE MAN, HIROTAKA.
WHAT?
I KNEW IT.
...I COULD BE A WAIFU...
WHAT.

WOW

Oh my~

IT WAS SO GOOD I HAD TO SET IT AS BOTH OUR WALL -PAPERS. ♪
ISN'T IT?
AWWW~ HE'S ALL OVER YOU~ THAT'S SO ADORABLE~
IT'S NOT EVEN A 'SHOP OR ANY-THING.
YEAH, SO HE GOT DRUNK FOR ONCE LAST NIGHT.
Oh my~

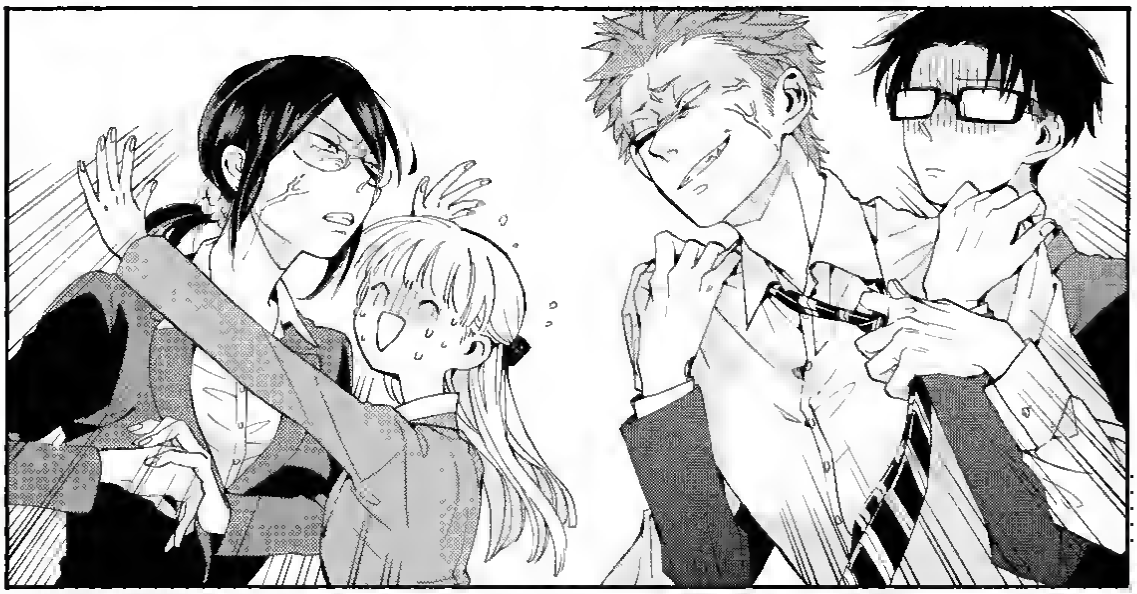
Text from him
Yo yo!
[WA LL]三ˆωˆ)
How's work goin?
Wanna stop for drinks on the way home?
(ˆωˆ三ˆωˆ)
Today*gasp*Kabakura is joining us! ヽ(*ˆωˆ)ノ
See if Koyanagi wants to come too♪
So try not to waste too much time on twitter, mmkay?
If you have to stay late imma bop u one
(つˆωˆ)三つ)`Д°).∴
HIS FACE JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM, SO YOU DON'T SEE IT IN CONVERSATION SCENES.
OH, SO HE'S THE ONE BUGGING OUT.
OR MAYBE HIS PHONE IS BUGGING OUT?
...IS HE ALREADY DRUNK?
IT'S NOT A BUG~ HE'S ALWAYS SILLY LIKE THIS.

Text from her

Aye.
...WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
Like you of all people can say that
This is beyond the level of "gap moe."
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE SHE TALKS LIKE THIS TO?

When did you two first start dating?
HM...
AROUND THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL, I GUESS.
RIGHT,
I THINK IT WAS THE DAY OF YOUR GRADUATION CEREMONY.

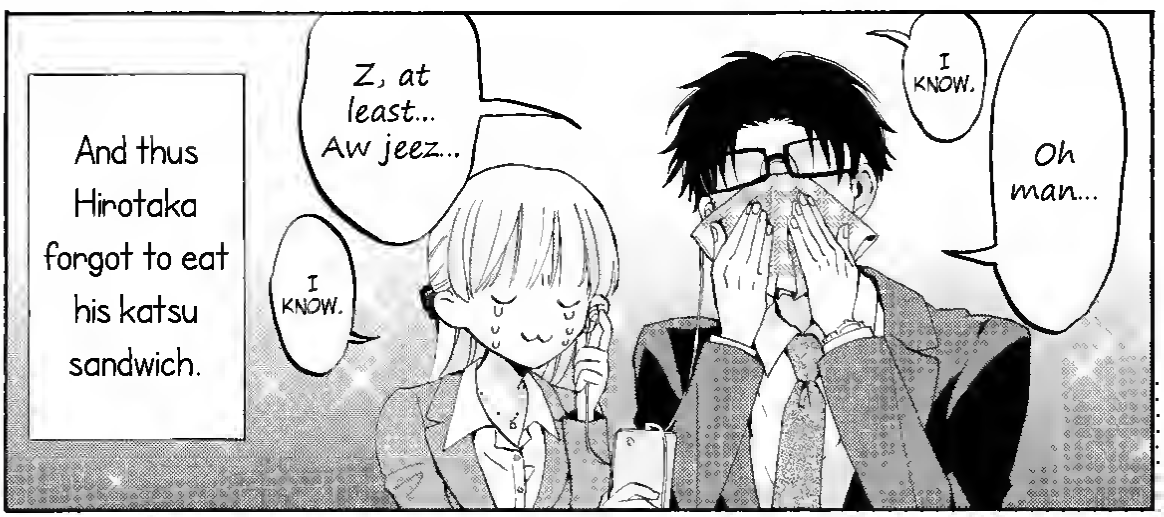
Which one of you confessed first?
Her
Him



YOU EAT LUNCH ALREADY?
HOW'S IT GOING?
I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
SOMEHOW THE NATTO ROLL WAS THE ONLY THING SOLD OUT ALREADY,
SO I HAD TO MAKE DO WITH A KATSU SANDWICH...

...huh?
Sorry, what?
...Are you al-
right?

R IS MY CHILD-HOOD, GOD-DAMMIT!
...AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE CRYING OVER SAILOR MOON?
wha-
Hey!
TWIST
I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU COULD CRY OVER AN ANIME AT ALL, AT OUR AGE.
UH, NO. I WOULDN'T WATCH IT AT WORK, AND I WOULDN'T CRY EITHER.
I THOUGHT MY HEART WAS GOING TO EXPLODE...
JESUS...
Please don't bring up GT
you can't help it!!
YOU WOULD WATCH DRAGON BALL IF THEY STREAMED IT, TOO! AND YOU'D CRY, TOO!
EVEN IF YOU WERE AT WORK!


And thus Hirotaka forgot to eat his katsu sandwich.
Z, at least... Aw jeez...
I KNOW.
I KNOW.
Oh man...

Wredits:

Author and Artist: Fujita

Wotes:

That sweater they are wearing on the first page was a meme on the Japanese internet for awhile.

Hirotaka's "waifu" line is actually a reference to that dumb line you hear in manga/anime sometimes,
where a girl who is seen by/touched by a male character says something like
"I can't become a bride anymore!" or "I can't get married now!" or whatever.
Except sort of in reverse.

"'Shop" meaning a photoshopped image; she's just saying it's not a fake/digitally edited/etc.

They are using the message app Line, which is wildly popular in Japan.

"Conversation scenes" is video game lingo, like dialogue cutscenes in a JRPG or something.

I believe this was mentioned in an earlier chapter, but Narumi often speaks to Hirotaka in really old-timey language (specifically that of a warrior to their boss).

"Gap moe" is what happens when someone acts differently from their expected image and it's cute.
Like a badass biker going nuts over a cute kitten or something.
You know the drill, I'm sure.

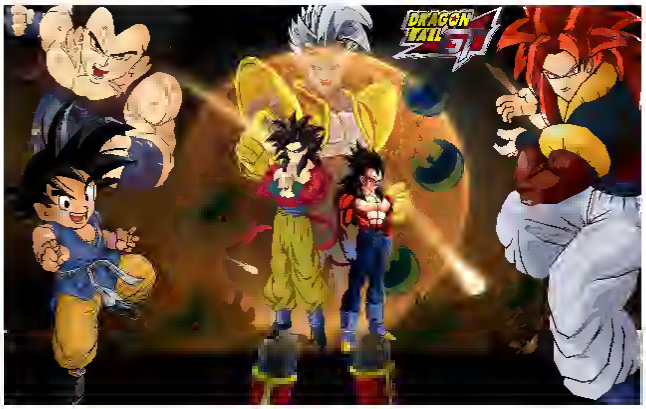
Natto is fermented soybeans. They're quite good for you,
but are very "love it or hate it." They are very pungent and slimy and get them away from me please oh god.
They're often eaten for at breakfast, as snacks, with rice, etc.

The "roll" in "natto roll" here is a kind of sushi, basically like the type of sushi most famous in the west, with the seaweed paper wrapped around it to form a cylinder.

Katsu (from the English "cutlet" (from the French "côtelette")) refers to a slice of meat (in Japan, usually pork) that is breaded and fried. In theory I could have put it as cutlet instead of leaving it katsu, but "katsu" seems to be distinct enough to have caught on a word in the English cooking world (try googling it!).

You probably know what Sailor Moon and Dragon Ball are. "R" refers to the second arc of the Sailor Moon tv anime (there's a movie "R" as well, but I think it's the series here). Supposedly good?
"Z" refers to DBZ and don't EVEN tell me you don't know exactly what that is.
"GT" refers to Dragon Ball GT, which is widely seen as an absolute disaster. It is entirely anime original, as opposed to being an adaptation of the manga by Akira Toriyama.

some dbgt thing

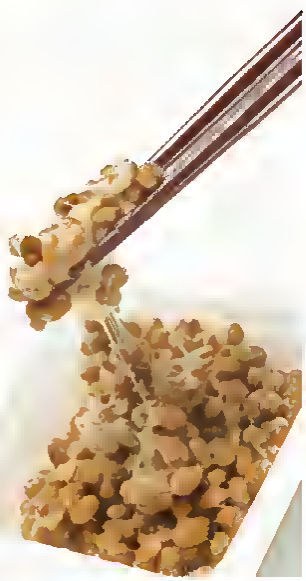


cover to an SM:R art book I think?

I want a sandwich now

eh maybe nvm

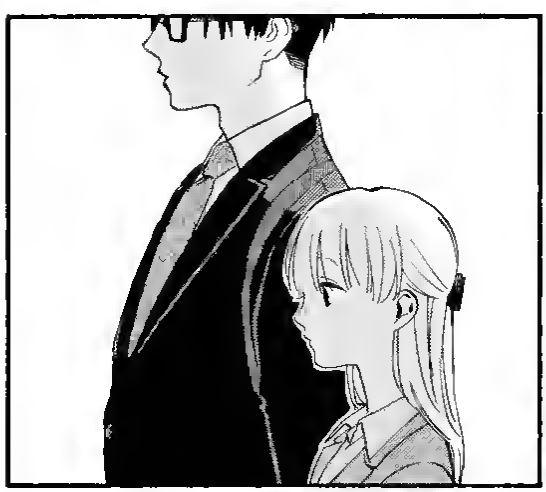
uh yeah no food for me, thanks

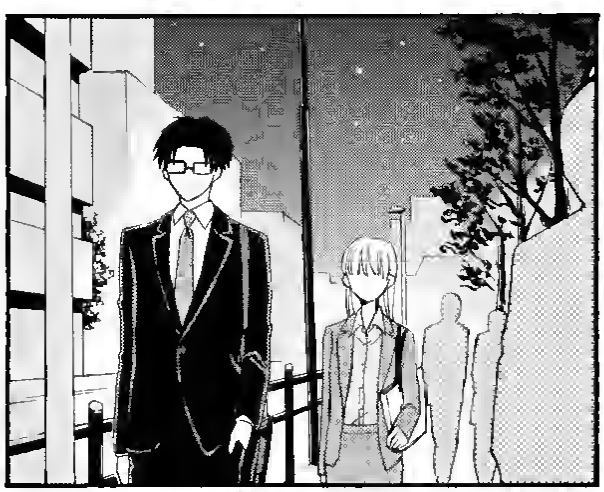


though i guess it looks a bit more appetizing like this

The result of someone tweeting:
"If this gets retweeted 5 times
please draw Hirotaka about to
have his clothes taken off."
↓

Why didn't it end up more like this?





WHAT'S WRONG?
ah
...IT'S JUST,
WELL...
OH,
UH,
ALL BROKE UP WITH ME OVER THE OTAKU THING, YOU KNOW?
MY LAST BOYFRIEND, AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT,
...AND MY FIRST ONE TOO, COME TO THINK OF IT,

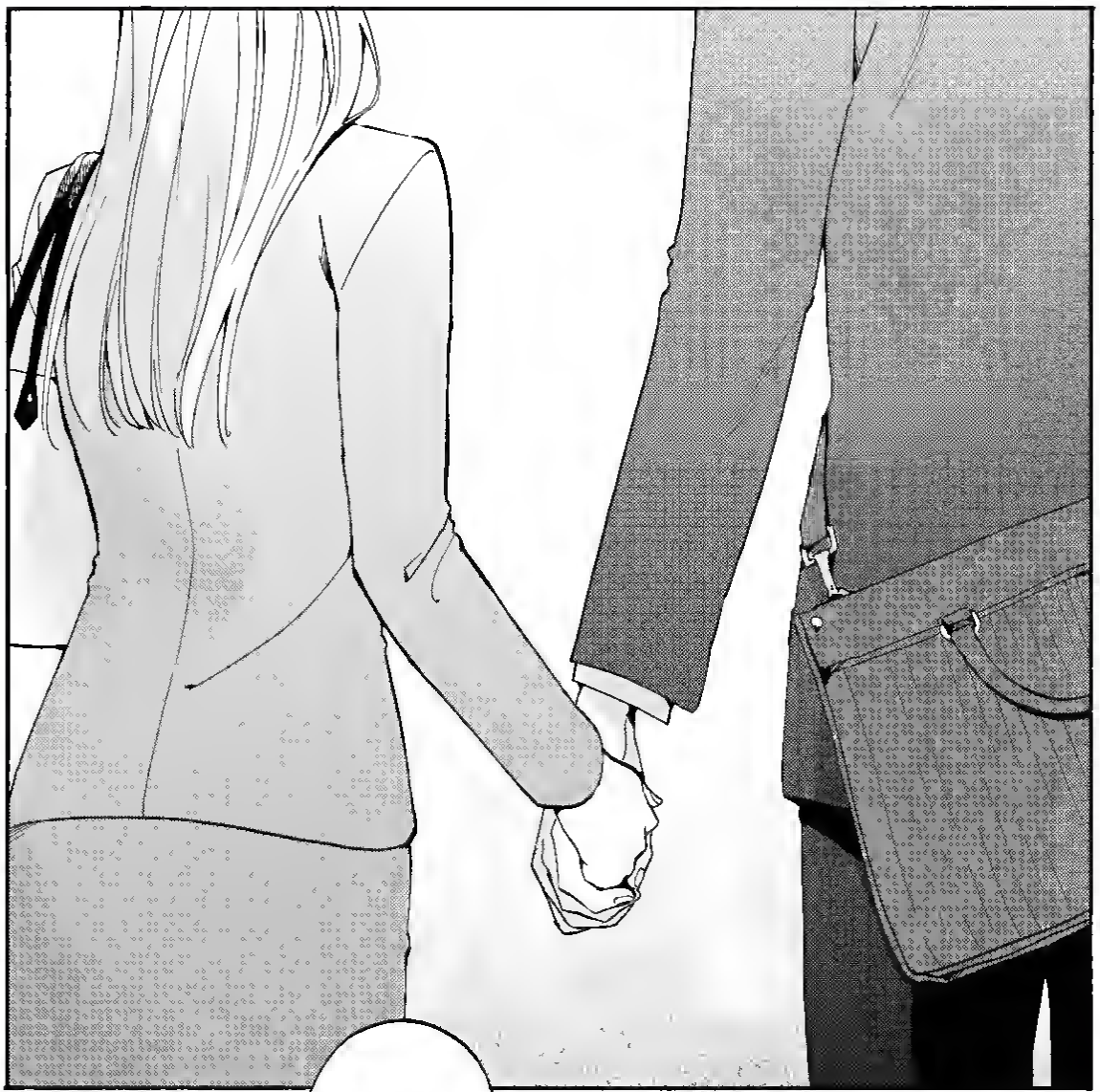
SO I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE KIND OF COMPROMISING A LOT FOR THE OTAKU THING...
BUT STILL,
WE'RE BOTH PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER'S IDEAL TYPE, YEAH?
SO IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN ROUGH LIKE THAT... BUT NOW IT'S SUPER EASY!
YOU KNOW, NOT HAVING TO HIDE IT AND ALL.
...WELL,
TRUE,
YOUR CHEST IS TOTALLY IRRELEVANT RIGHT NOW-
YOU MOTHER FUCK-ER!!!!
NO-WHERE.
WHERE WERE YOUR EYES?
NOPE.
HEY, JUST NOW...
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID...
...I WASN'T COMPROMISING AT ALL.

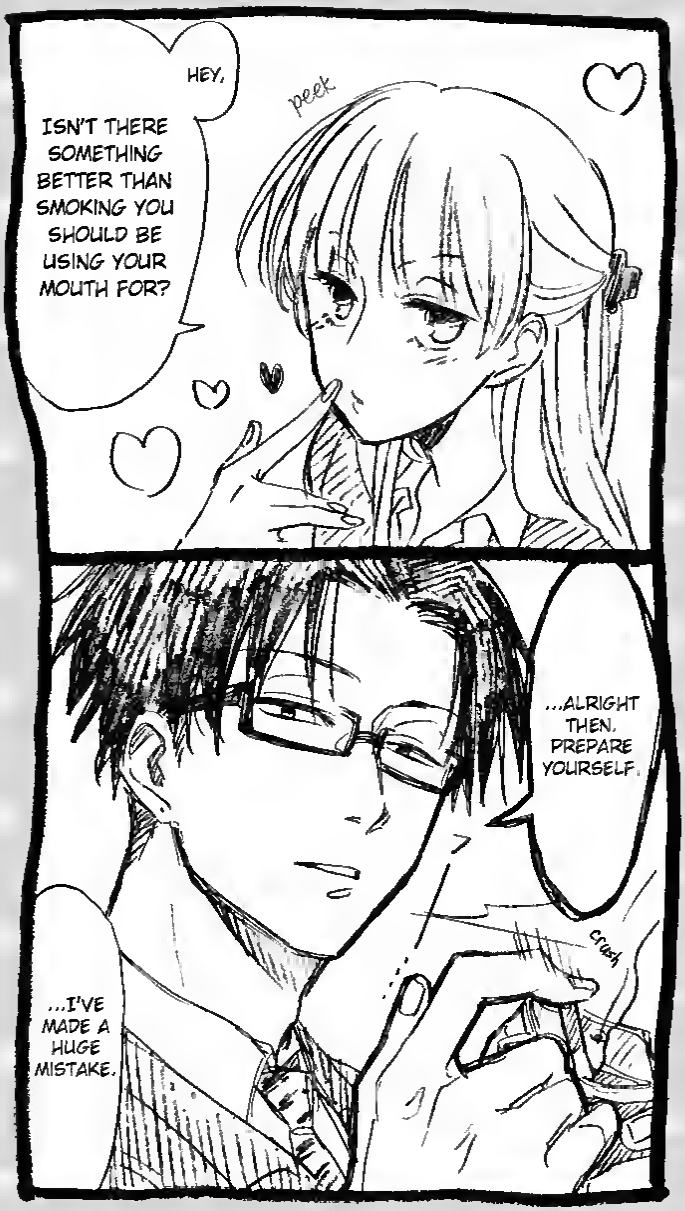
SO,
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
SO...
I WAS JUST WONDERIN' IF MAYBE YOU'D RATHER BE WITH A 'NORMAL' GIRL TOO...
ANYWAY IT JUST KIND OF CROSSED MY MIND.
OKAY CONVERSATION OVER NOW.
TIME TO GO HOME!
"WE'RE BOTH OTAKU,"
OR "IT'S EASY,"
AREN'T WHY I'M TOGETHER WITH YOU.

I JUST LOVE YOU,
AND LIKE SEEING YOU HAPPY...
SO I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO PUT THAT MUCH THOUGHT INTO IT.
...ANY-WAY,
THAT'S KIND OF HOW I FEEL,

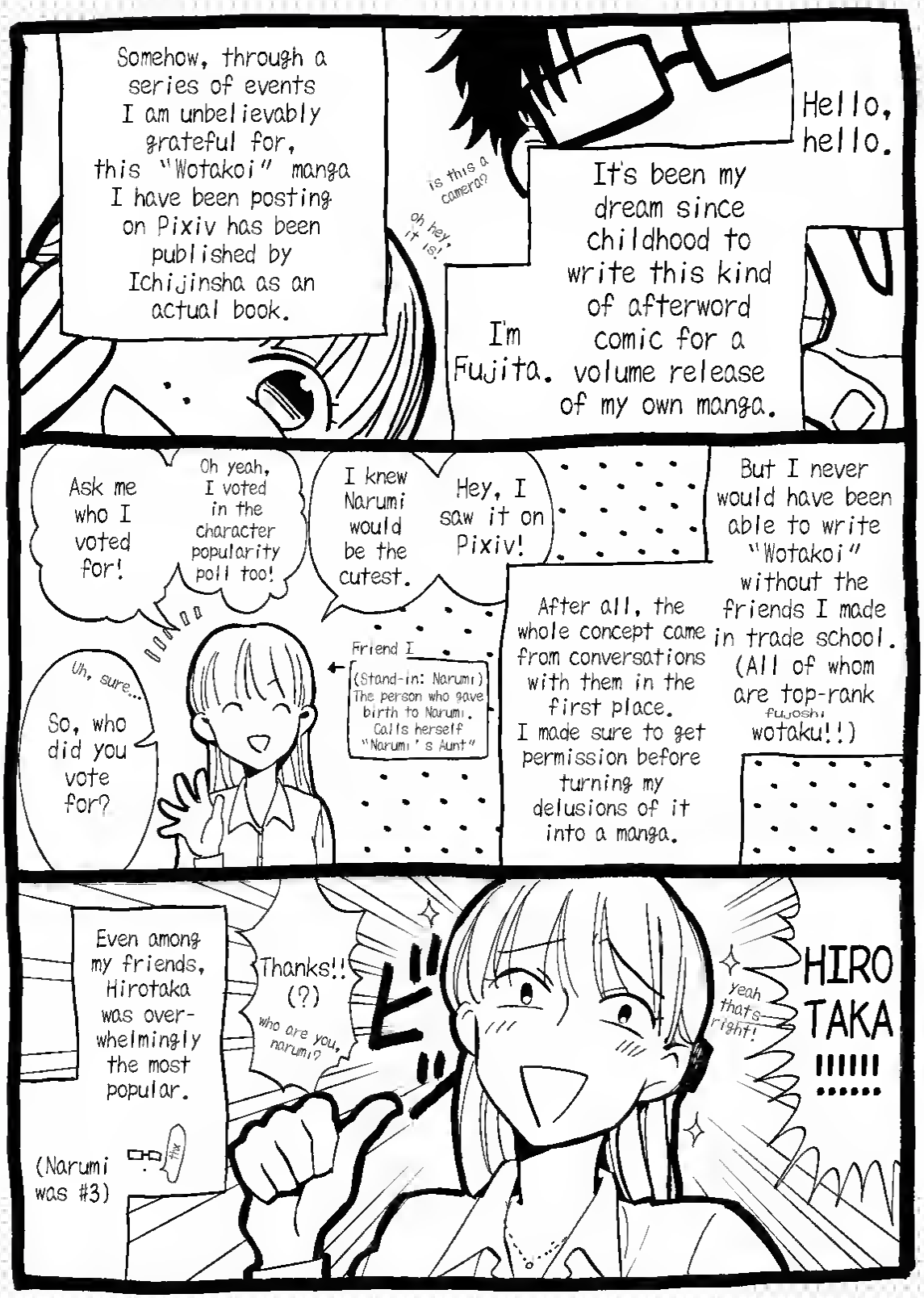
HIRO-TAKA...
YOU LIKED ME...?
I guess it hadn't really sunk in...
SMACK
NEVER-MIND, I TAKE THAT BACK.
TRY TO PUT A LITTLE MORE THOUGHT INTO THINGS BEFORE YOU SAY THEM.
Hee Hee Hee Hee
I MEAN, YOU NEVER REALLY SAID IT OUTRIGHT BEFORE...
AH!
MAYBE YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR BEFORE? WHEN I SAID YOUR CONFESSION WAS "SORT OF UNFINISHE-
HELL NO.
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME SORT OF MO-RON?

HRMPH!
PFFF
hehehehehe


SO, YOU WANT TO HIT THE ARCADE FOR A BIT?
HOW ABOUT THE ONE BY WEST EXIT?


HEY,
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING BETTER THAN SMOKING YOU SHOULD BE USING YOUR MOUTH FOR?
peek
...ALRIGHT THEN. PREPARE YOURSELF.
crush
...I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....


Somehow, through a series of events I am unbelievably grateful for, this "Wotakoi" manga I have been posting on Pixiv has been published by Ichijinsha as an actual book.
Is this a camera?
Oh hey, it is!
Hello, hello.
I'm Fujita.
It's been my dream since childhood to write this kind of afterword comic for a volume release of my own manga.
Ask me who I voted for!
Oh yeah, I voted in the character popularity poll too!
I knew Narumi would be the cutest.
Hey, I saw it on Pixiv!
But I never would have been able to write "Wotakoi" without the friends I made in trade school. (All of whom are top-rank fujoshi wotaku!!)
Uh, sure...
So, who did you vote for?
Friend I
(Stand-in: Narumi) The person who gave birth to Narumi. Calls herself "Narumi's Aunt"
After all, the whole concept came from conversations with them in the first place. I made sure to get permission before turning my delusions of it into a manga.
Even among my friends, Hirotaka was overwhelmingly the most popular.
(Narumi was #3)
Thanks!! (?)
Who are you, Narumi?
Yeah that's right!
HIROTAKA !!!!!!

To be honest, I just wanted to draw Hirotaka doing this pose.
You're the best.
The toes and the knee should be pointing the same direction,
pull
always willing to lend a hand (or leg)
So for that angle it should look like this.
I'll do my best to keep improving and make even better manga in the future!
Hm...
Hey, I feel like the balance is off here. You think it's maybe the leg?
Yeah, I think it is...
The art, the composition, mental support... Everyone was a really big help in any number of ways.
Friend K
(Stand-in: Hirotaka)
Great artist, but secretly a pervert.
Friend Y
(Stand-in: Kayanagi)
Big boobs. Always drunk for some reason.
So today I was with my mom at the beer section in the supermarket, right?
By the way, my mom is a Hirotaka fan too~
Jesus, why!? And why did you have to tell me!?
It's embarrassing, stop!
But thank you!!
One of them even reads "Wotakoi" together with her mom, which is both awesome and extremely embarassing.
Thank you, my friends! Also, sorry for using you as jokes! Thank you!!
And we totally did the "Asahi Super..." ↓ "Suntory" thing!
Dad
(Stand-in: Kabakura)
Treats the chihuahua better than his own daughter. Almost always angry, but laughs at poop jokes.
WHY I TELL YA..
heke heke
Why aren't ya callin' home more often, ehh!?
wag wag wag wag
What's that!? You're drawing them 'comic books' now!?
As far as things to report...
I'm currently seriously worrying over when to tell my parents I have a book being published.
To be honest, with the content being what it is, I don't really want to tell them.
And I'm off! With any luck we'll meet again in volume two!
2015.04.Fujita

Credits!!

Author&Artist: Fujita!
Fujita-support: Fujita's fujoshi friends!

Notes!!

That's the end of volume one!
Volume two is out already though!!! Yay!!
Expect more chapters in the near future!

In case it wasn't clear, this chapter takes place just after Kabakura and Koyanagi have that fight and make up.

See chapter 2 for the line about an "unfinished" confession.

I don't know what kind of trade school Fujita attended.
Maybe a manga one?
(Those do actually exist, and in great number.)

The "Asashi Super..." gag is from chapter 4.

The "heke heke" sound the dog is making is a Hamtaro reference.
It's a meaningless sound he makes when being cute, or questioning, etc.

The Dad is speaking with an accent from maybe Aichi prefecture?
Probably from somewhere in central Japan at least.

As you can maybe tell from the afterword, "Wotaku ni Koi ha Muzukashii" was originally posted by Fujita on Pixiv, and it ended up so popular a big-time publisher approached them about turning it into a book.
Congratulations Fujita! Yay!

I also want to point out briefly that the title more accurately translates to "Love is Difficult for Otaku" rather than "It's Difficult to Love an Otaku".
I got beat to the punch on the name though so
¯_(ツ)_/¯